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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 120

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January 13, 2010



# PENSIONER QUIZZED OVER BODY IN FLAT

## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ISSN 1753-119-5



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## SUB DEAD REMEMBERED

The lives of 64 servicemen and Chatham Dockyard workers who died aboard HMS Truculent were honoured yesterday, on the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the Royal Naval submarine.

More than 170 guests attended the Submariners Association's memorial service, to pay their respects to those who died when HMS Truculent sank in the Thames Estuary after colliding with a Swedish oil tanker. She was carrying 18 civilians, having undergone a complete refit in Chatham Dockyard.

For the full story, turn to page three.

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A PENSIONER is being questioned by police in connection with an ongoing murder inquiry.

The 69-year-old man, from Chatham, was arrested on suspicion of murder following the discovery of a man's body on Saturday, January 9.

The grim find was made at a flat on Copperfield House, in New Road, Chatham, shortly after 10.45pm.

Officers said the victim, said to have been in his 60s, has not been formally identified.

The cause of death is also still being investigated.

### Decision

Detectives from Kent Police's major crime unit have been questioning the suspect, and are expected to make a decision whether to release him or charge him today.

Area Commander for Kent Police in Medway, Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley said: "We are currently following a number of lines of inquiry into this investigation.

"However, if anyone has any information they should contact Kent Police immediately.

"My officers are speaking to residents in the area to reassure them that this was an isolated incident and one that is a very unusual occurrence in Medway."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Kent Police's Major Crime Unit on 01634 884010 or Kent CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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**2** Some beautiful snowy scenes taken across Folkestone and Hythe. **Search 'snow'**



**3** More than 100 swimmers go for a Boxing Day dip in Dover harbour. **Search 'Boxing'**

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# Motorists caught in snow fined for abandoning cars

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

MOTORISTS who abandoned their cars after becoming stuck in a snow storm have been left hundreds of pounds out of pocket after police chiefs ordered tow trucks to impound their vehicles.

Dozens of drivers decided to leave their cars behind last week when a prolonged downpour brought Blue Bell Hill to a complete standstill.

Some said they opted to walk after Wednesday's late-afternoon blizzard rendered driving conditions treacherous. Others said they ran out of petrol during the five-hour delay.

Regardless of their reasons, Kent Police hired a recovery company to remove 18 cars from the road.

The vehicles were all towed to a holding pound on the Isle of Sheppey. The release fee is set at £150 with an additional charge of £20 slapped on top for every extra day the car is held.

## Extortionate

More than 1,200 furious motorists – many of whom were caught up in the rush-hour hold-up between Medway and Maidstone – have joined an online campaign to have the tow charges refunded.

Driver Marion Simmonds, from Ditton, said: "I can't believe the police ordered a company to do this.

"The roads were so icy that I had no choice but to abandon the car.

"I find it extortionate that they are charging me £150 just to get it back."

The 59-year-old said she was further irritated by having to travel to the Isle of Sheppey to pick her car up.

She said: "The police tell people not to make your journey unless completely necessary.

"How do I get public transport the way the weather is all the way to the Isle of Sheppey and drive my car all



**SNOW JOKE:** Police ordered the abandoned cars be towed away to clear the carriageway

the way back in these conditions?

"It's brainless."

Jayne Odwyer added: "It's disgusting. If the roads were gritted in the first place, cars might not have to have been abandoned. Typical, make money out of people's misery."

A Kent police spokesman said: "People take the risk of having their vehicles towed when they make the decision to abandon them.

"Motorists are usually given an hour or two to move their car before they are taken away. In this circumstance it was absolutely necessary to move the cars because the road needed to be cleared.

"We do understand that sometimes people have no choice but to abandon their cars, but we want to keep the road network open. We use a number of towing companies and do not make any money from them.

"We can't comment on charges and costs give to car users."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Police on lookout for thugs who cut tyres

VANDALS slashed the tyres of 17 cars during a three-day crime spree in Gillingham and Chatham.

The vehicles were attacked during the early hours of the morning between January 9-11.

The cars were parked in a number of locations, including St Johns Road in Gillingham, Chatham Hill, Upper Luton Road, Magpie Hall Road and Glencoe Road in Chatham.

Detective Sergeant Chris Dovey said: "These acts of criminal damage will not be tolerated in Medway."

Call police on 01634 792257 or Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Public meeting could prove very infectious

INFECTION experts will talk about MRSA, C Diff, the winter vomiting bug and flu during a public meeting later this month.

The event gives residents the chance to learn about Medway NHS Foundation Trust's work in controlling the spread of infection.

Infection control specialist Kath Hughes said: "You can also learn how we're reducing our use of antibiotics, which has a huge role to play in infection prevention and control."

The meeting takes place at the hospital's postgraduate centre on January 27. For details call 01634 825292.

## Hospice benefits from Christmas fundraisers

GENEROUS sheltered home residents raised more than £200 for charity at a Christmas fair.

The fundraisers, from eight home centres across Medway, came together at St Mark's House, Gillingham, selling items ranging from homemade cakes to cards and books. The money be donated to the Wisdom Hospice.

Medway Council's adult services boss Tom Mason said: "Well done to the generosity of the residents from Medway's sheltered housing schemes for raising this money for charity."

The money will be presented to the charity at 1.30pm tomorrow.



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# Service honours the 64 who died in sub tragedy

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

THE 60th anniversary of a naval tragedy was marked with a commemorative ceremony yesterday.

Submarine HMS Truculent sank after colliding with a Swedish oil tanker in the Thames Estuary. Sixty-four men – including servicemen and 18 Chatham Dockyard workers – lost their lives.

The memorial service was organised by the Medway branch of the Submariners Association as a tribute and a mark of respect for those who were killed.

More than 170 guests attended the service at the St George's Centre, Chatham.

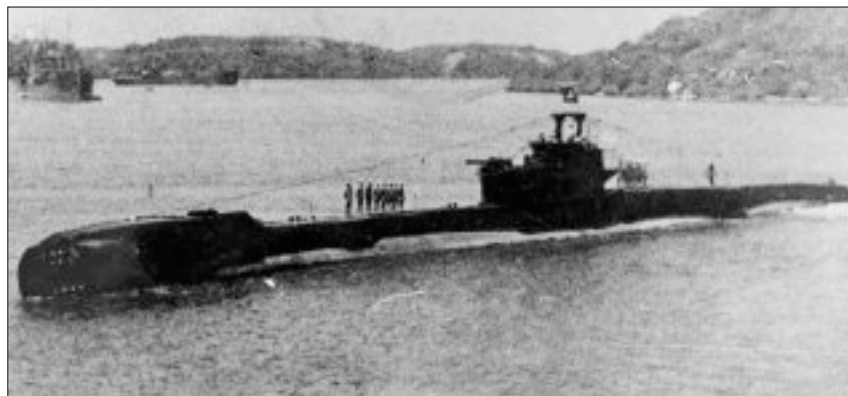
HMS Truculent was lost after colliding with the merchant ship the Divina oil tanker while making its way back to Sheerness following a refit in Chatham Dockyard.

Survivor Frederick Henley's memories of the terrible incident have been published on the Sheerness Heritage Centre website.

It reads: "It had been an uneventful day. With 18 civilians aboard – fitters, electricians and son on from the naval dockyard – we mustered 79 men. Few would survive the horror that was to come.

"I was a leading seaman at the time, and the Royal Navy was my life. After two or three years on subs, I thought I knew the ropes.

"But when the order came from the bridge to bring up the Manual of Seamanship, I was a bit surprised. I had never known anybody to want that particular textbook – a pretty hefty volume – before. It was a cold, dark night, the sky pricked with brightly shining stars. I didn't see the tanker ploughing inexorably towards us.



**HORROR AT SEA:** HMS Truculent (above) collided with the oil tanker Divina in the Thames Estuary killing 64 of its crew

"I had no means of knowing that the officers on the bridge had been puzzled by the arrangement of lights on an approaching ship and had sent for the seamanship manual to check them.

"As events were to prove, the manual did not help either them or HMS Truculent – but it certainly saved my life."

## Refloated

Only 20 survivors were picked up, 15 by the tanker five more by the Dutch ship Almdjik.

Those who were not rescued were swept away by the strong currents and died due to the hypothermia.

The submarine was salvaged more than a month later, where it was beached on Cheney Spit before being moved further inshore the following day.

After being refloated on March 23, 1950, the submarine was towed back to its original destination of Sheerness, before being sold and broken up for scrap.

As a result of the collision between the submarine and the merchant ship, a port control system was developed.

The 'Truculent Light' was also developed, which is an extra all round white light on the bow of British submarines to ensure that they remain visible to other shipping traffic.

The submarine was commissioned at the end of 1942, and played a key role in the war efforts.

Despite spending most of the time in Pacific waters, HMS Truculent did spend the early part of 1943 in the waters around Britain, sinking a German U-boat on its first war-time patrol.

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## Report dismisses 'Boris Island' plan

BORIS Johnson's plans for an airport off the north Kent coast have been savaged by a new report.

A feasibility review conducted by Medway Council planning officers says such a development would be too far from London, too near a major liquid natural gas port and would harm the landscape.

This negative view of 'Boris Island' differs from that of the London Mayor, who believes a £40 billion airport could be built in the Thames Estuary within 10 years, financed by oil-rich Arabian Gulf countries.

Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "This report shows exactly what we already knew – that Mr Johnson's plans for an estuary airport are pie in the sky. His feasibility study has not taken into account the distance from London and whether passengers or airlines actually want this.

## Recommendations

"It has ignored the fact there is a port importing huge quantities of liquid natural gas every day, and has made a very arbitrary study of the transport links needed."

The report also points out that Kent International Airport at Manston has one of the longest runways in Europe and could be connected to the high-speed rail service at a reasonable cost. Medway's cabinet approved the study at a meeting on Tuesday and it will go to full council later this month.

Among the recommendations was for officers to contact Doug Oakervee – the author of Mr Johnson's feasibility study – to advise him that any justification for a new airport should only be considered once detailed studies of the transport infrastructure have taken place.

Cllr Chambers added: "I urge people to sign our petition and help us stop this airport."

Visit [www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk](http://www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk).

## Pair attacked outside Co-op

TWO teenage girls were assaulted on New Year's Day in Gillingham.

The 15 and 17-year-olds were approached by a man outside the Co-op on Gillingham Road at around 8.20pm.

The man is then alleged to have grabbed one of the girls before putting his arms around her.

Police are looking for a potential witness who may have seen the alleged mugger.

A man in a black Ford Mondeo asked the girls for directions to Gillingham town centre around the time of the assault.

Officers would like to speak to the driver, who is not connected to the assault, as they believe he can help with their enquiries.

A 38-year-old man was arrested on January 2 on suspicion of assault and is currently on police bail.

Call Kent Police on 01634 792525 or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 if you have any information.

■ A TALK outlining Chatham's bid for world heritage partnership status will be given later this month.

The free event will take place at MidKent College's new multi-million pound Gillingham campus on January 27, running from 6.15pm to 7.30pm. For more details and to reserve a place call 01634 331176.

## Historical impact of banned board game

A SATIRICAL board game confiscated during last year's infamous Kingsnorth Climate Camp demonstrations has been deemed "historically important" by the BBC.

War on Terror – which encourages players to "spin the axis of evil" while wearing a terrorist-style balaclava – was listed among the likes of Monopoly and Cluedo as examples of games that have helped shape British history.

Its new-found reputation was moulded on the recent BBC Four series Games Britannia, in which author Benjamin Woolley sat down with inventors Andrew Sheerin and Andy Tompkins to see who could take over their version of the world first.

The duo came up with the game – which pokes fun at the real-life War on Terror – in 2003 as the UK was preparing to take on Iraq over the so-called 'weapons of mass destruction' that were never found.

He said: "We thought it was quite absurd that despite all the marches and the vast amount of public hostility towards the war, it still went ahead.

"We were left feeling a bit bemused and frustrated by it all, but at the same time we felt some of the issues surrounding it were the perfect



**GAME ON:** War on Terror inventors Andrew Sheerin and Andy Tompkins with the game

ingredients for a board game – friends turning into enemies and enemies turning into friends, depending on what gives them a tactical advantage.

"It felt quite natural to be included on a show detailing the history of British board games, but when it actually aired we were pretty humbled at being put in the same league as Monopoly and Cluedo."

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## Thieves make escape with yard trailers in tow

TWO trailers worth almost £4,000 have been stolen from a works yard in Chatham.

Both trailers were taken from the Multibury Ltd site on Second Avenue between 4pm on Tuesday, December 29 and 8.45am the following day.

The thieves gained access to the yard by cutting through a secure gate. The distinctive trailers both have Polish number plates. One is blue and the other is silver.

Call police on 01634 792535 or Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

## New guide to help save birds during big freeze

RESIDENTS are being urged to help our feathered friends survive the cold snap.

RSPB bosses have released a six-point guide in a bid to help homeowners provide bird with enough food and water to see it through the winter.

People are encouraged to put bird feed out regularly, top up water levels and put up nest boxes.

RSPB spokesman Sophie McCallum said: "Just a little water, food and shelter can turn your garden into a vital haven for birds in the freezing winter months."

## Teen trio arrested over door kicking incident

THREE teenage girls have been arrested following an allegation of criminal damage in Rainham.

The youngsters – aged 15, 17 and 18 – were arrested after a Mardale Close resident reported the front door to their flat was repeatedly kicked at 1.50pm on Saturday, January 2, causing £50 worth of damage.

Neighbourhood officers spotted the trio, in Rainham recreation ground two days later.

A 17-year-old from Gillingham was released on bail. A 15-year-old from Sittingbourne and an 18-year-old Gillingham girl were released without charge.

## Meet bus bosses to air your views on services

PUBLIC transport users can have their say on Medway's bus network during a Chatham town centre surgery on Friday.

Representatives from Arriva, Nu Venture and Medway council will be on hand to listen to residents' concerns about bus services from 10am to 3pm.

# Up in arms over coats

## Outrage after clothing is confiscated by head in icy conditions

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PUPILS had their coats confiscated despite the sub-zero temperatures after their headteacher imposed a non-uniform clampdown.

The move saw dozens of students at Aylesford Sports College stripped of their coats, hats and scarves.

The shocked youngsters were told by teachers their jackets would be confiscated until the end of the day, despite the below freezing temperatures, and would be sent home if they refused – which the school said it would class as truancy.

### Stunned

Pupils and parents said they were stunned by the timing of the uniform clampdown.

Adele Ankers, whose 16-year-old daughter Charlotte was one of the pupils to be sent home, said: "I agree the kids should wear school uniform, and mine always have, but what I don't agree with is making them wear this coat in these weather conditions."

"I am asking the school to use common sense by letting the kids wear their own warmer coats while it is snowing and below freezing temperatures, and wear the school uniform coat in warmer weather."

"Charlotte is currently studying for her GCSEs and needs to be in school, but I don't see why I should have to pay out for a new coat when she already has a plain, black, warm, suitable coat. It's pathetic."

"The school should be worrying about our children's education not a coat."



ANGER: Elizabeth Lynch, Harrison Berry-Lynch, Charlotte Ankers and Adele Ankers hold the school uniform coats

Harrison Berry-Lynch, 16, who suffers from asthma, also had his coat confiscated by a teacher.

The teenager's mother Elizabeth Lynch said: "These teachers have a duty of care to our children and they are not doing this by taking their coats in freezing cold weather – it's ridiculous."

"The cold weather is not good for Harrison's asthma, so who would be to blame if having his coat taken from him sparked an attack?"

Pupils have also left comments on the Aylesford School, Wrong Coat – Go Home group on social networking site Facebook, saying the uniform coat is not "warm enough" and claim the school has now moved on to confiscating hats and scarves.

One student wrote: "It's pathetic. They tried taking my coat off me but I said no because it's cold, there's snow on the floor and because they shouldn't be allowed to."

Head teacher Doug Lawson defended his decision, saying: "There was a small minority of students who did not wear the correct coat. We have not excluded or sent any child home."

"The uniform was decided upon after lengthy consultations with students and parents, the parents' views being of particular importance."

Mr Lawson also said a reminder letter was sent to parents to inform them their children would need to wear the new uniform coat, costing between £21 and £26, or a £12 fleece, both of which bear the school logo.

## Jailed for vicious sword attack

A SWORD-wielding thug has been jailed for four years after launching a savage attack on a young man.

Bill John Billingham, from Gillingham, lunged at the man after a heated argument turned into a fight in June of last year.

During the attack in Church Path, Gillingham, the 26-year-old used a Samurai sword to slash at the unarmed 20-year-old victim, inflicting cuts to his head, arms and back.

Billingham fled the scene but was later arrested and charged.

He pleaded guilty to GBH with intent at Maidstone Crown Court and was sentenced on Wednesday, December 23.

Following sentencing Detective Constable Sean Wareham said: "Billingham showed a clear intent on causing an injury by carrying a weapon."

"Fortunately the wounds received were small but his decision to use a blade could have had much more serious consequences."

"We will not tolerate people carrying weapons and anyone who uses one can face a long sentence."

"We are pleased the Judge has recognised that Billingham is a dangerous offender and poses a significant risk to the public."

"Knife attacks such as this remain rare in Medway."



ATTACKER: Bill Billingham drew knife on unarmed victim during argument

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**REPORT:** There has been call for an inspection at Medway Secure training Centre over physical restraint of young detainees

# Ofsted report at reform unit 'complacent'

A PRISON charity has called on inspectors to investigate the use of physical violence on child inmates held at Medway Secure Training Centre.

The demand was made by the Howard League for Penal Reform following Ofsted's latest report of the privately-run Rochester institution, where 12 to 14-year-olds are detained.

The charity's chief executive, Frances Crook, said in a letter to the education watchdog's chief inspector: "It seems extraordinary that inspectors could be so complacent about the use of physical restraint on children when it has been such a controversial topic.

## Violence

"Reports are blithely uncritical of the use of physical violence on children, whereas our evidence from children themselves is that it is used capriciously and dangerously, particularly on girls, in order to secure compliance rather than for protection."

Crook went on to say Ofsted's September 2009 reports were "the latest in a line of inadequately produced reports" and listed nine areas where they found "serious concerns".

She added: "The report reads like an apology for the private company running

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

the institution and is so superficial as to be almost meaningless."

Inspectors were also criticised for showing "little evidence" that inmates were consulted about their views, and called the watchdog "naive" for its "assumption that children will feel able to speak freely in a jail setting".

An Ofsted spokesperson said a review of STC inspection methods was ongoing.

They added: "Ofsted strongly refutes any suggestion we do not take the use of physical restraint seriously.

"Inspectors pay particular attention to this and review individual incidents and talk to young people involved.

"The inspectors who inspect STCs are very experienced and have a record of challenging poor practice.

"Inspectors spend as much time as possible with young people during inspections, in addition to collecting information from young people and their parents in pre-inspection questionnaires.

"Inspectors also review exit questionnaires and consider information provided by managers, reviews of statistical information and records, and CCTV footage to get a rounded picture of what a centre is like for a young person."

## Mock crash highlights drink-driving dangers

FIREFIGHTERS staged a mock car crash in Chatham to highlight the dangers of drink and drug driving.

The display, dubbed Operation Carmageddon, saw Kent Fire and Rescue Service officials work alongside police and paramedics to treat an injured driver.

The hard-hitting simulation was part of a series of KFRS displays staged across the county.

It is hoped the operation will shock drivers into steering clear of their car if they are over the legal drink drive limit.

Search 'Carmageddon'.

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## yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hoax 999 call crackdown

NEARLY 100 hoax 999 calls were made during a five-month period last year, fire chiefs have revealed.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's figures show firefighters from stations across Medway were sent out unnecessarily – as the result of either a malicious call or by someone intentionally setting off a fire alarm – on 67 occasions between April and September 2009.

A further 27 hoax calls were identified by control room operators – ensuring appliances were not sent out – during the same period.

Medway fire station manager Jim Ramsden said hoax calls were potentially life-threatening.

"As well as wasting our valuable resources, hoax calls have the potential to divert us from a real emergency – just imagine if that's your family caught in a house fire or a serious car crash but our crews are elsewhere," he said.

"This is a serious matter and if you're caught, you face a large fine and possibly a jail term."

### Equine equipment stolen

HIGH-value horse riding accessories were stolen during a midnight raid on an Elm Court business.

The goods, including bridles and clothing worth more than £500, were taken from Medway Horse and Rider Ltd, in Capstone Road, Chatham, at 12.10am on Wednesday, January 6.

The thieves used bolt cutters to gain access to the site and a black 4x4 vehicle was seen in the area at the time of the burglary.

Call police on 01634 792534 quoting crime reference number DY/272/10.

### Celebrate The King's 75th

THE King will perform in Cliffe Woods next month at a charity's Elvis-inspired fund-raising night.

The Cerebral Palsy Care event, titled Elvis by Request, takes places at the charity's View Road headquarters on Saturday, February 13.

Fund-raising manager, Karen Dockwray, said: "Come and help us celebrate Elvis' 75th birthday. Dance the night away to live music from The King."

The fund-raiser runs from 8pm to 11.30pm. Tickets cost £10. Proceeds will go to CPC Kent.

For more information or to book your ticket call 01634 220330.

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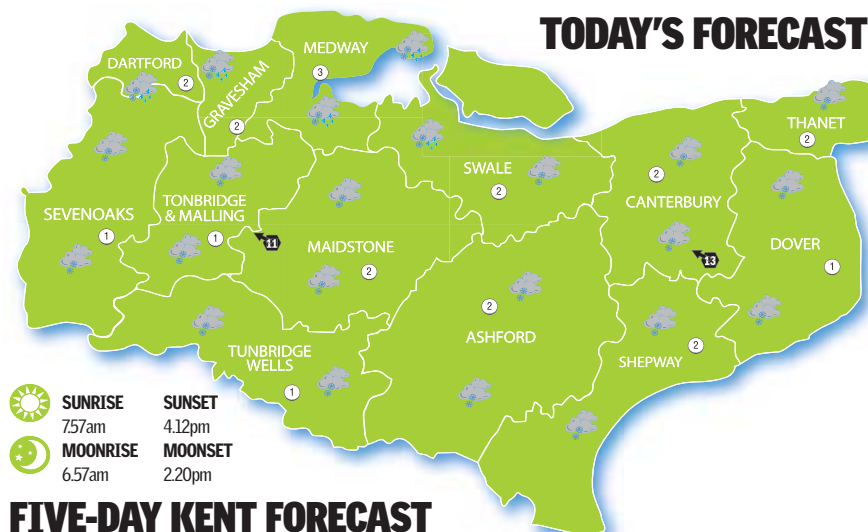


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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:36pm	5.7m
	Sunday	2:08pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	11:46am	6.3m
	Sunday	12:19pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:41am	7.1m
	Sunday	12:15pm	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:16pm	4.8m
	Sunday	12:49pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:26pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.1m



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	0°C	Madrid	-1°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	7°C	Paris	1°C
Beijing	-6°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	26°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	1°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C



**BOWLED OVER:** Patients play game console at hospital

## Wii hope you're feeling better, say St Bart's

WII-HABILITATION has hit Medway – with patients at St Bart's Hospital playing with the Nintendo games console as part of their treatment.

Three of the machines were bought last month and have already proved popular with the patients.

Enid Ellis said: "I've really enjoyed playing on the Wiis while I've been at St Bart's Hospital. I particularly like the bowling."

The consoles were bought after £500 was raised during a charity night at Medway Maritime Hospital Club.

Co-organiser Sandra Chapman, a ward sister at St Bart's, said: "The Wii systems are not only fun but provide gentle rehabilitation and help to build up strength."

"We'd like to thank everyone who gave both their time and generosity to help raise the money and buy the three video game consoles."

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Canterbury	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Maidstone	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Dartford	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	0°C	1°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Gillingham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Tun Wells	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### ANGUS FRASER



**Q** Why did you want to get involved with The Caldecott Foundation?

**A** My involvement began five years ago, after a casual conversation with a friend who has been a long-serving Caldecott trustee. Caldecott had just built a new school on their Smeeth site and were looking for school governors. I have always been interested in education, both personally and professionally – I was chairman for nearly seven years of the Alpha Plus education group in London – so I was delighted to help.

**Q** How has it changed in recent years?

**A** A great deal. In the mid-90s, an appeal was launched for major projects, including building a new school and improving the houses. This raised £8 million. The Duke of Edinburgh visited us three years ago to mark its successful conclusion. But it's not just about capital investment. We have also made great strides in developing our range of services and in enhancing the quality of integrated care we provide for some of Britain's most neglected and vulnerable children, so as to help them rebuild their lives.

**Q** You have extensive experience in business. How does this help in your work with the Caldecott Foundation?

**A** Most of our income is from local authority social services departments, who place children in our care. They expect us to manage our

affairs in a professional and businesslike way. We don't receive government funding or grants, so we need to work hard to provide the best care, therapy, education and fostering service we can within the resources available. We have to be competitive to earn the opportunity to do that. What's more, we need to set money aside to invest in facilities for the future, so we look after our money very carefully, and are very appreciative of the donations and legacies we receive from our supporters. These help pay for life-enriching extras for the children, such as holidays, outings and sports equipment.

**Q** Are the services the Foundation offers under more pressure at the moment? What are the main problems?

**A** With public finances under scrutiny, it is an economically difficult time for our local authority clients and we will need more than ever to demonstrate high quality and value for money. Running a care organisation like Caldecott is inevitably costly, not least because of our relatively high staff to child ratio.

**Q** The Foundation is nearly 100 years old, how do you see its future?

**A** We're looking forward to our centenary in 2011 but it is a sobering thought that child cruelty and neglect cases such as Baby P show there is as great a need as ever for the sort of care and protection we provide. Our role is to ensure that we continue to develop our services

to meet the needs of children and young people and to strive continuously to improve outcomes for those in our care.

**Q** Why do you think it has managed to maintain this success over all those years?

**A** Because we care, and because we're always thinking about how we can best help the children who are placed with us. Our services are constantly evolving and we now provide a complete package, from initial assessment through to residential care in one of our seven houses, therapy, schooling, fostering and finally, supporting them into the outside world.

**Q** How can people get involved to help the foundation?

**A** There are lots of ways to help the Caldecott Foundation by giving a little time or money. There are volunteering opportunities and a regular programme of events. We enjoy working with companies, and there are plenty of ways to make donations. Visit our website at [www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk) and click on 'How You Can Help'.

**Q** Who inspired you when you were younger? How did they affect your life?

**A** I was fortunate to work early on, in different enterprises for a succession of bosses whom I liked and admired and from whom I learned a great deal. The one common feature was that they were all extremely demanding!

**Q & A**

The new chair of trustees at The Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth near Ashford, which cares for up to 50 children who have suffered cruelty and neglect, talks to **Ed Hill** about the future of the foundation

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BY MARIJKE COX

A GRIEVING father whose son was killed by a speeding driver has spoken of his heartache for a hard-hitting TV advert.

Michael Bollom, from Bearsted near Maidstone, hopes the candid account of his son James' death will bring home to viewers the harsh reality that speeding can kill.

He said: "This isn't just coming from an actor on TV - this is coming from a parent who lost his child."

In the advert, which will be shown on ITV Meridian, the 50-year-old recalls James's death in December, 2005.

The 16-year-old was killed a month short of his 17th birthday when the car he was travelling in lost control in the village of Watlington.

He died instantly after taking the full force of the crash.

The driver was prosecuted and jailed for dangerous driving.

The life-changing consequences of the crash took a further tragic twist when James's grief-stricken mother, Samantha, took her own life three months later.

Mr Bollom believes by opening up about the tragedy on television, people will take notice and think twice about their speed while on the road.

"I want to get the message across to some of these young drivers that speeding can have tragic consequences," he said.

"If I can prevent just one death, prevent one family from going through the pain we suffered, then it will be worthwhile."

"By me doing it rather than an actor it makes it all the more real for people and therefore will have more of an impact."

Mr Bollom, who is director of a manufacturing company in Sittingbourne, was

# Devastated dad's TV plea to stop speeding drivers



**MESSAGE:** Michael Bollom hopes his moving account of his son's death will make drivers think and (right) with James at a wedding before the tragedy which claimed his life. He has also had a book about his experiences published

approached by Kent Police to talk about his grief as part of a campaign to clamp down on speeding.

The 30-second advert was filmed at Maidstone Studios by Southside Television and will be shown on ITV from this Friday to mid-February.

"It was daunting doing the advert and

brought up a lot of sad memories," said Mr Bollom. But it helps prevent people speeding then it's been worth it."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge paid tribute to Mr Bollom for taking part in the campaign.

"We are grateful to Michael for having the courage to do this and to help us get the

message through that speed kills," he said.

Director of Southside Television, Martin Smith, also praised him.

He said: "He was brave to do something like this as it obviously brought memories flooding back, but he is determined James should not have died in vain."

As part of his own personal plight, Mr Bollom has also written a book entitled *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*.

It gives a poignant account of his grief and how he dealt with the tragedy that tore his world apart. He hopes it will help other families cope with bereavement.

He said: "It's going very well - Waterstone's has taken it on in two of their branches in Maidstone. I've had emails from people saying it has helped them with their own grief."

Money from sales is donated to Holding On, Letting Go, which is part of Demelza House, a children's hospice based near Sittingbourne.

The charity aims to help families cope with bereavement.

Mr Bollom said: "We have already raised £2,000. Some of the people who have read my book have also given extra donations to the charity."

• To buy *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*, email [mike@boundbiographies.com](mailto:mike@boundbiographies.com) or go to Waterstone's in Maidstone.

## 'Designer dogs' dumped by cash-strapped owners

A RISE in demand for so-called 'designer breeds' has sparked fears even more dogs will be dumped in the coming weeks and months.

The Dogs Trust says cross-breeds like the labradoodle face an increased risk of being abandoned due to their newfound popularity as short-term fashion accessories rather than lifetime companions.

Staff at the charity's rehoming centre in Canterbury are currently caring for three such animals and are concerned they may receive more in the weeks and months to come.

Manager Lizzie Reffell said: "We're seeing more designer breeds coming through the kennel system and it's quite unusual."

"These dogs are new on the scene

and are quite expensive, which may be why they are becoming increasingly popular as fashion accessories."

"But still people do not seem able to cope with them or keep them long-term. Many don't seem to understand the dogs they buy will need to be looked after for the next ten years."

"We took in quite a few labradoodles last year but the problem has become more apparent now we have three cross-breeds at once. Fortunately because they are so popular they tend to be rehomed fairly quickly."

Three dogs currently being cared for by Dogs Trust Canterbury are Ruby the puggle (pug-beagle), Benson the boxador (boxer-labrador) and Charlie the spollie



**GIVE A DOG A HOME:** (l-r) Puggle Ruby, boxador Benson and spollie Charlie are being cared for by the Dogs Trust Canterbury

(springer spaniel-collie). Last year the BBC sparked a controversy when it dropped the annual Crufts dog show from its television schedule, citing concerns about the welfare of some of the pedigree canines on show.

However, Ms Reffell said there was no evidence to suggest cross-breeding caused any of the genetic defects uncovered by the broadcaster.

She added: "The dogs we've come across haven't had anything wrong

with them but as time goes on we will find out more and more about the effects of cross-breeding."

• Anyone interested in providing a home for one of the Dogs Trust's animals can call 01227 792505.

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## BREAK TIME



**HEAVENLY VOICES:** Hempstead Infant School's winning choir won Xmas Factor 2009

## Christmas song is a winner for choir

A LITTLE Donkey proved to be the key to a Merry Christmas for children and staff at Hempstead Infant school.

The school's version of the festive hymn won Heart 103.1 & 102.8's Xmas Factor 2009, which was staged at Chatham's Dockside Outlet centre.

The school received 27 per cent of the vote, which was enough to beat the other nine schools in the finale.

The prize for the winners is £1,000 to be spent on school equipment, a private film screening and a tour of the Heart FM studios in Whitstable.

Alongside this, all of the finalists received a professional photograph and a trophy each.

Heart 103.1 & 102.8 Breakfast Show presenter James Heming said: "Well done to Hempstead Infant School."

"Listening to the children's Christmas songs and waking up to a blanket of snow was just what I needed to put me in the mood for Christmas."

# Pupils and students benefit from animal encounter day

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

**WILDLIFE**-loving children from Byron Primary School were given the chance to handle a wide range of cuddly and creepy creatures, thanks to students at MidKent College.

The hands-on event was held at the animal management department at the college's new multi-million pound Medway Campus on Medway Road, Gillingham.

The purpose-built unit houses a variety of species, including small mammals, invertebrates and those that are a bit more exotic.

Collection technician Sophie Marriott was pleased to see the children having such a great time.

She said: "This provides our students with an ideal insight into what it's like to work with animals and the public."

"No matter how much preparation you put in, you can guarantee to be asked some questions you would never have considered."

"It certainly keeps you on your toes."

"Of course it also provides a great opportunity for our guests to meet a diverse range of species – helping them to realise that there can be more to working with animals than walking the dog or brushing the cat."

The event allowed the pupils to interact with exotic animals for the first time, as well as some more familiar species.

Eight-year-old Jadon Johnstone said: "We've stroked loads of soft animals and touched



**CLOSE ENCOUNTER:** Pupils were fascinated by the variety of animals they met on their visit to Medway Campus

some scaly ones too, I've loved it."

The animal day also allowed some of MidKent's students the opportunity to deal with new situations.

"This has been my first experience of working with children," said 18-year-old MidKent College student Amy Wells.

"The whole experience has been really exciting."

"They ask so many questions, it really puts your learning – and your memory – to the test, but it's satisfying to realise how much you actually do know and great to be able to pass that knowledge on."

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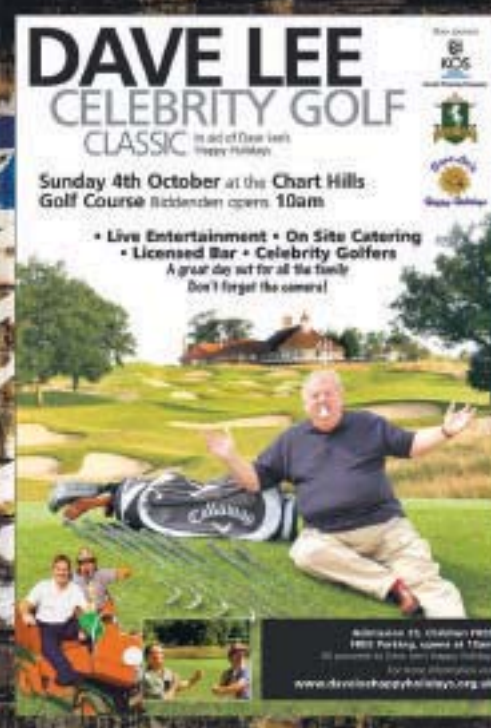
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Award Winning Company





# Ben Inter a shot at big time with the 'Special One'



**LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY:** Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho (right) is waiting to see if Ben Greenhalgh (pictured left with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo) can win a professional contract with the current Serie A champions

FOOTBALL fanatic Ben Greenhalgh could swap Orpington for Italy after reaching the finals of a television competition to find the sport's next star.

The 17-year-old Darrick Wood School pupil is one of 10 youngsters battling it out for a contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan – currently managed by former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho.

Ben's attempts to impress the self-proclaimed 'Special One' form part of the new Sky1 show Football's Next Star, which kicked off last Sunday.

Throughout the course of the seven-part series the youngsters will work with the likes of Mourinho and former England star Jamie Redknapp to hone their skills and hopefully win a contract at the San Siro.

## Contract

Filming for the show – which also saw Ben rub shoulders with Real Madrid megastar Cristiano Ronaldo – was completed last October, but Ben was keeping tight-lipped about how the competition ended.

He said: "I'm not allowed to give anything away, but it would certainly be life-changing to win the chance to play for Inter."

"As soon as I found out I would be going to Italy for a month I knew I had to take it seriously, because you don't receive this sort of opportunity every day. You've got to believe you're going to go all the way."

"When we were out there they were saying it

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

was between me and one other guy, but I just tried to relax and enjoy the experience rather than get nervous and worry about things."

Left-winger Ben earned his place in the finals after impressing the judges at one of several national roadshows, which he was entered into by his Kent youth team coach.

He eventually made the final 10 after impressing Inter youth coaches Paolo Migliavacci and Marco Monti, the latter of whom oversaw the youngsters' progress during their time in Italy and was responsible for deciding who would leave the competition from week to week.

The San Siro is a long way from Welling United's Park View Road, which was where Ben was originally planning to play his football this season.

He said: "There were a lot of problems because I had just signed a contract with Welling before I took part in the competition, but because I was 18 I was able to get out of it."

"In the end Welling were quite good about it, but it was quite stressful because it still hadn't been sorted out the night before the people on the show needed it to be."

"I joined Welling because the manager [Jamie Day] said a professional club would see me and sign me up, but I felt it was a better opportunity to take part in this competition and hopefully get snapped up by Inter."

• **Football's Next Star can be seen on Sunday at 8pm on Sky1.**

# Chief Constable's future to be decided this week

KENTS Chief Constable Mike Fuller will find out this week if he is to be offered the top job at the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to become Chief Inspector of the CPS.

Members of the Justice Committee in the House of Commons – including Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – were due to discuss their decision yesterday, with an official announcement expected to be made soon after.

Should Mr Fuller land the job, it is rumoured his deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill the Chief Constable position on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found.

Speaking to KOS Media shortly after his name was put forward last month, Mr Fuller stressed the deal was far from done.

He said: "I'm not gone yet, but I have been through the selection process and I've been

put forward as the preferred candidate, but the MPs might disagree."

"It is quite an unusual thing for the CPS to look outside the service for this role. I have

engaged with the CPS from the other side of the fence, so am able to see where improvements could be made from an operational angle."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Under his leadership the county has seen the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – 14 specialist units aimed at combating low-level crime – while also securing the use of a police helicopter as part of a joint working agreement with Essex.

Mr Fuller also holds honorary doctorates of law and is a non-practising barrister, having been called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.



**DECISION TIME:** Chief Constable Mike Fuller



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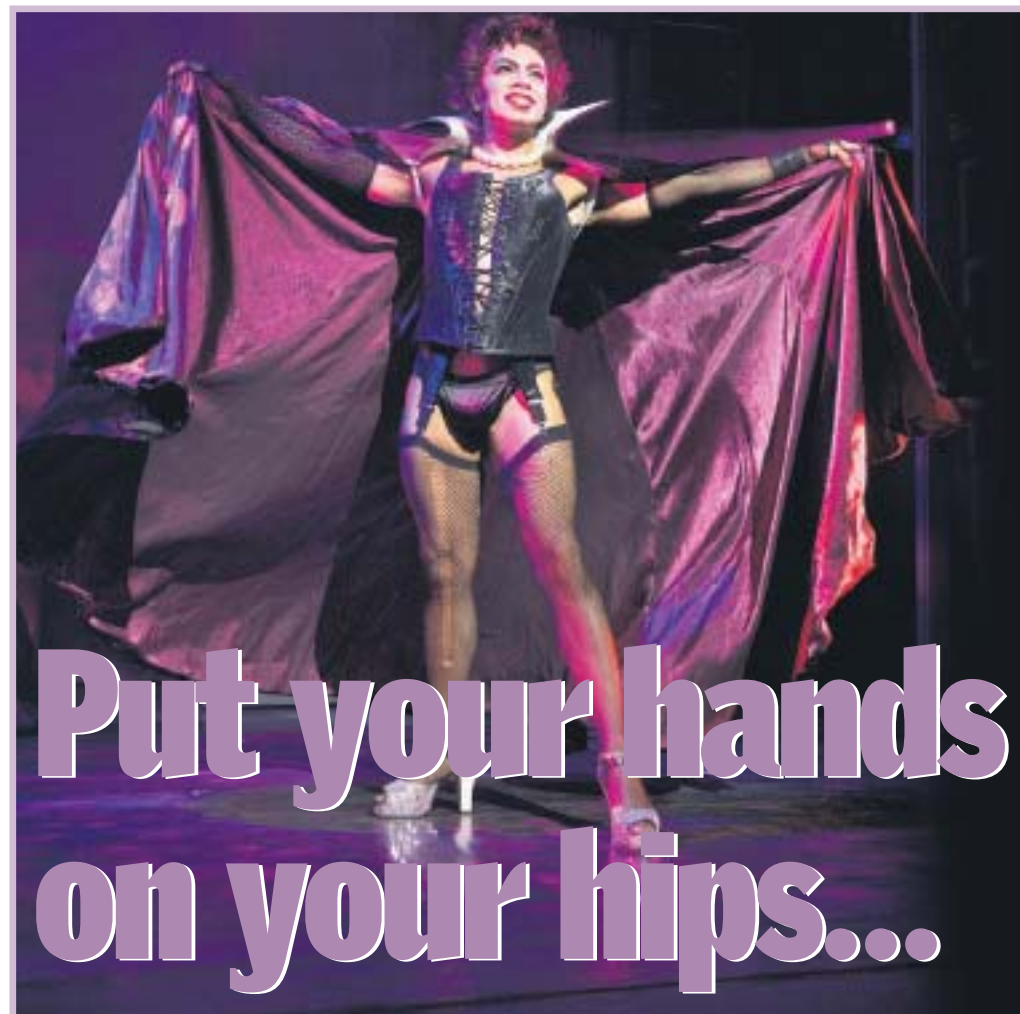
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## yourleisure



# Put your hands on your hips...

Party with Frank 'n' Furter and friends when the Rocky Horror Show arrives at the Orchard Theatre. Coming soon

PREPARE to party in the company of a sweet transvestite when The Rocky Horror Show rolls into town.

For more than 30 years, the sumptuous Frank 'n' Furter has been seducing his fellow characters and audiences all over the world. Created by Richard O'Brien, this rocking musical features unforgettable songs, mind-blowing characters and a famous dance routine which has been filling dance floors for decades.

The charismatic lead figure is played by David Bedella, an Olivier Award-winning actor whose previous credits include television drama Holby City, musicals Chess and Hedwig & the Angry Inch and the controversial Jerry Springer the Opera.

The Rocky Horror Show is a wild and inventive show that follows the exploits of an engaged couple, Brad and Janet, who find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere when the car breaks down. They are forced to seek refuge at a nearby castle, but the whiter-than-white couple soon find themselves in a world they had never dreamed of until that fateful night.

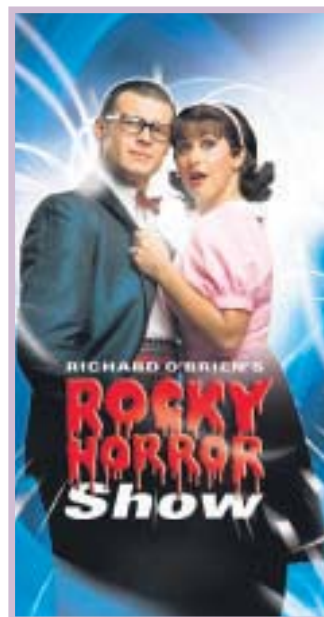
The castle is owned by mad scientist Frank 'n' Furter and from the moment they are greeted at the door by a hunchbacked butler, Brad and Janet fear that all is not as it should be. It turns out that they have dis-

turbed the scientist in the middle of a horrifying experiment – he believes he has discovered the secret of life.

Frank 'n' Furter is pleased with his creation, the blond and hunky Frank 'n' Furter, but he commits terrible acts in his pursuit of scientific advancement. Forced to stay the night at the castle, Brad and Janet are given separate bedrooms. But it soon appears that Frank 'n' Furter, a bisexual transvestite, has more than just laboratory experiments on his mind.

Featuring unforgettable songs such as the Time Warp, Sweet Transvestite and Dammit, Janet, this show is a great night out for seasoned fans and newcomers alike. Fancy dress is encouraged, so unleash your wild side and get ready for a night you will never forget.

Tickets are priced from £18, concessions available. Performances start at 8pm, Monday to Thursday, and 6pm and 9pm on Friday and Saturday. To book call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).



### ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Monday, January 25 to  
 Saturday, January 30  
 Orchard Theatre, Dartford



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## FOREVER BLOWING BUBBLES 4

Monday, January 18  
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

LEGENDS of the football field will be talking about their colourful careers in Forever Blowing Bubbles 4.

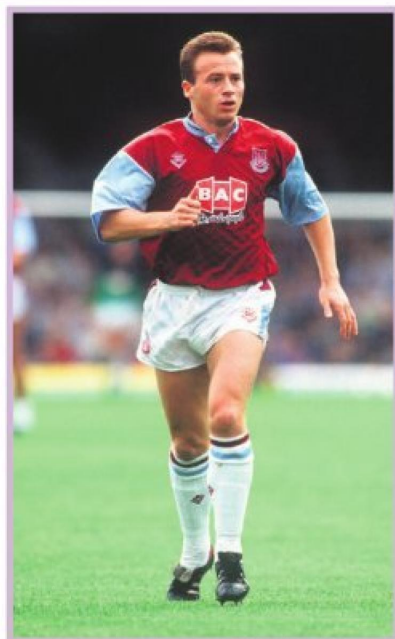
A real treat for West Ham fans, the show features another selection of sporting heroes talking about their lives on and off the pitch. Television pundit and West Ham favourite Tony Gale will be joined by 1975 FA Cup hero Alan Taylor for this fascinating evening of reminiscence.

Taylor had only arrived from Rochdale at the start of that season, but finished off the year in style by scoring two goals against Bobby Moore's Fulham in the thrilling final.

Mark Ward (pictured) has some particularly interesting stories to tell about his life away from the pitch, as well as his time spent as a true West Ham legend.

Take a trip down memory lane to the 60s as former defender Ken Brown talks about the days when he was part of the cup-winning team and club captain. There will be a chance to get paid autographs after the show.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £19.50/£18. To book call 01322 220000 or go online at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).



## THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS

Saturday, January 30  
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

ONE of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands of all times is celebrated by The Bootleg Shadows.

When Hank B Marvin, Bruce Welch, Jet Harris and Tony Meehan recorded Apache in July 1960, they launched an instrumental career that would make the Shadows one of the most successful British bands ever. Since then they have achieved 35 hits of their own, as well as another 33 with Cliff Richard, and won their place in the annals of popular music.

Their immaculate look, synchronised dance moves and clean sound won legions of fans,

while aspiring guitarists everywhere dreamed of stepping into the spotlight with their own Fender Stratocaster.

This fantasy concert encompasses the band's amazing career from the 60s to the early 80s, featuring such unforgettable tracks as Foot Tapper, Man of Mystery, Atlantis, Wonderful Land, Kon Tiki, Don't Cry For Me Argentina, FBI and many more. Along with the great music, there is plenty of humour to make the evening go with a swing.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15/£14. Book online at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01622 758611.

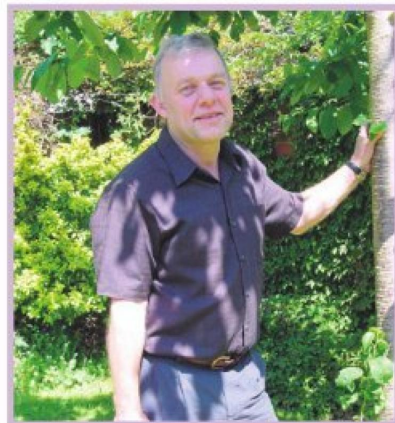
## STEVE TURNER

Tuesday, February 2  
Central Theatre, Chatham

concertina players – his grandfather was known to have performed in the 1890s – Turner began his career on the Manchester folk scene in the late 60s. He made two albums and toured Britain and Europe with Geordie band Canny Fettle during the 70s, but his star quality really came to the fore in 1979 when he won the Melody Maker Stars of the 80s competition in 1979.

During the next 12 years, he released four solo albums and toured internationally. From 1991 onwards Turner concentrated on building a violin retailing business and diversifying into classical. But his return six years ago has been a big success and he has since completed two more albums.

The concert starts at 8pm and support will be provided by Skinner's Rats. Tickets cost £8 or £7 for folk mailing list members and Friends of the Central Theatre. To book call 01634 338338 or visit [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk).



ACCLAIMED singer and concertina player Steve Turner visits Medway Folk Cellar next month.

Following a long period away from the folk scene, Turner made a triumphant return in 2004. Coming from a family of singers and

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## MEDWAY LEISURE

### Dick Whittington looks for fortune in Rainham

FIND out if Dick Whittington can earn fame and fortune in the family pantomime from Rainham Theatrical Society.

Dick Whittington is running at the Oasthouse Theatre in Rainham every Thursday, Friday and Saturday until January 30. Performances start at 8pm with matinees at 2pm and 5pm on Saturdays. To book tickets call 0844 879 3224.

### Become a Jedi knight in interactive show

FIGHT the Sith Pirates and blast the Dark Side's droids at the Kings Theatre in Chatham this weekend.

There is another chance to see Spotlites' interactive theatre show, Robinson Crusoe: the Lost Jedi Knight on Sunday.

The performance starts at 2pm and tickets cost £5.50/£4.50 each or £18 for families. Book on 01634 829468. Find out other dates at [www.spotlites.co.uk](http://www.spotlites.co.uk).

### Choos a great night of live music in Rochester

FOR an evening of live funk, soul, blues and jazz music, head to the Eagle Tavern in Rochester.

The pub will be hosting a gig by The Choos which plays cover versions from the last five decades. Find out more about them at [www.thechoos.co.uk](http://www.thechoos.co.uk).

They will be appearing at the pub in High Street at 9pm on Thursday. Visit [www.theeagletavern.org.uk](http://www.theeagletavern.org.uk).

### Tell us all about your upcoming events

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to [jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk) or by post to the address on page two. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph.

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Page 29



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# yourmedwaytimeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### TAKE ME OUT ITV 1, 730pm, Saturday

THE TV dating show must be a hard thing to get right.

Let's face it, going out on the pull is a national pastime – it always has been and always will be – but there are very few shows that have really addressed the subject. It must be the TV equivalent of trying to nail down jelly.

Blind Date is the most obvious example, but despite dragging on for decades, that was hardly edgy or indeed relevant – especially as it was so obviously staged.

Then there was Singled Out on MTV and Chris Evans's ill-fated Boys and Girls, which sunk without trace in the early noughties.

Other than that, I'm on to even more obscure shows, and that's just weird for a subject that 99 per cent of us are interested in.

I mean, if you're not already in a relationship then you're probably thinking about getting in one – and setting up other people is a sport for some.

So fair play to ITV, who have taken a run at it in the form of Take Me Out.

With lad-in-chief Paddy McGuinness at the wheel we meet 30 single women who set about running the rule over several guys hoping to secure a date.

After he has been probed and verbally prodded by all concerned, the girls decide whether to let their interest slide and buzz out, or stay in the game.

Particularly cruel is the way that many drop out as soon as he says "Hello, my name is...", showing that when it comes to judging a book by its cover women can be just as bad as men.



**PLAYING CUPID:** Paddy McGuinness hosts ITV's newest dating programme Take Me Out

After the set amount of rounds our subject must choose which girl to take out from those who remain, adding a bit of tension to matters.

Credit to the guys who come forward, as watching the lights go out on your love life on national telly must be a bit embarrassing.

One bloke's humiliation was total when he ended up with nobody declaring an interest.

In true Blind Date-style we get an update on how the big dates went the following week.

It's hardly highbrow entertainment, but it's jovial enough and makes a change from the endless stream of Saturday night talent shows we have been bombarded with in recent months, even if it is, in truth, a bit of a meat market.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

**YOUR** mind, body and spirit are intimately connected. If you don't feel well, it may be because you're not emotionally fulfilled. Spending more time on pursuits that make you happy is essential. Steer clear of people whose religious or political beliefs are offensive to you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

**A PERIOD** of study is coming to a close and you're a little sad as a result. The prospect of finding a practical use for your knowledge is a little daunting. Job opportunities are few and far between. Don't beat yourself up for this turn of events. After all, it's beyond your control.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

**You** long for privacy, but work demands keep crashing into your personal life. Share your knowledge and know-how with others. That way, people won't have to run to you whenever there is an emergency. It's the only sensible course of action to take.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

**ALL** the experience in the world has not prepared you for the challenges ahead. You just have to trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a troubled relative. Whatever the reason for this animosity, you've got to address it in a direct fashion at the start of the year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

**RECENTLY**, you've been neglecting friends, choosing to focus on a lover or youngster's needs instead. Now you've got to rejoin your social circle. Of course, you may be met with mixed reviews. 2010 is a year for building bridges and strengthening ties.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 21)

**A SOURCE** of income will be cut off, forcing you to find another way to earn money. Unfortunately, the kind of work you enjoy will be elusive. You might have to take a job just for the sake of paying your bills. Try not to dwell on your disappointment. There is a silver lining.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

**FRIENDS** are impatient for you to join their ranks, but you're not ready yet. A romance, or promising creative project commands every ounce of your attention. Some will accuse you of being selfish for neglecting loved ones, but nobody realises how dependent they are on you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

**SEXUAL** hang ups are making you miserable. If you've had trouble maintaining a long-term relationship, think about getting some counselling. Adopting a healthier attitude to life and love is critical to your happiness. You can find the kind of love you've always wanted this year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

**A TENSE** family situation comes to an end. Moving away from meddling relatives comes as a huge relief. Check out the chances of doing some voluntary work, taking a challenging job or opening your own business are all positive ideas. Reach for the stars.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

**This** is the time to put an end to an image that no longer serves your interests. You're tired of being the one everyone comes to for guidance. Pursuing your own star should be your first priority. If that means shaking off some overly dependent people, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

**CAREER** matters could come to a head in 2010. It may be necessary to decide between work and family. A once in a lifetime opportunity depends on your moving to a different location. Putting this much distance between you and your loved ones makes you nervous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

**AN** intimate relationship needs to undergo some serious changes. The problem is, this person has taken all of your sacrifices for granted. You have to consider whether you want to stay committed to such a relationship. Set the tone for the coming year by putting your needs first.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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No120

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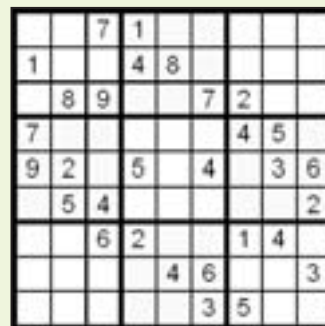
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## CRYPTIC CLUES

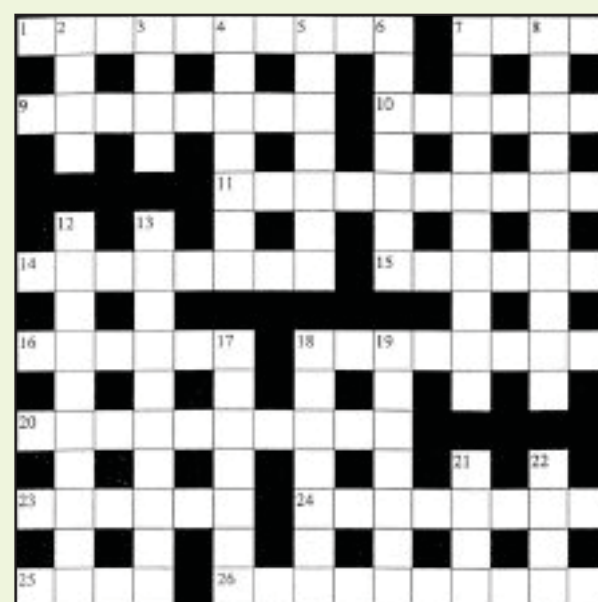
### ACROSS

- 1 Stairs adorn part of ship (6-4)
- 7 Only one per person but several people can make one (4)
- 9 Webb waving goodbye to town in South Wales (4,4)
- 10 Find it painful to be an informer (6)
- 11 Single bit of scientific research? (10)
- 14 Aromatic river ebbing fast (8)
- 15 Novice, your first musician (6)
- 16 Purple plant (6)
- 18 Missile entered news broadcast (8)
- 20 Agree to keep in touch (10)
- 23 Mark, Greek character went round Thailand (6)
- 24 Something put on caught out of harmful habit (8)
- 25 Brother cultivated more than half the berries (4)
- 26 In all directions at each place in question (10)

### DOWN

- 2 Part of ear used to hear cello better (4)
- 3 Go west then north for the dress (4)
- 4 Bar part performed with ease, say (7)
- 5 I, say, notice rudimentary organ (7)
- 6 Makes trellis camouflage flighty creature (7)
- 7 Great outcry when colourful racehorse rose (4,6)
- 8 Symptomatic? (10)
- 12 It flies the police about over the river (10)
- 13 Encourage unfashionable rogue to take right flag (5,5)
- 17 Locates variety that is in proportion (2,5)
- 18 Ordered bird in patterned fabric (7)
- 19 Boy with unknown time of fame in March (4,3)
- 21 Long to take the item with honour (4)
- 22 Number said to be in favour (4)

## SCRIBBLE HERE



## QUICK CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1 Boxing match (10)
- 7 Wader (4)
- 9 Thaw (8)
- 10 Amend (6)
- 11 Feasting (10)
- 14 Plundered (8)
- 15 Clothing container (6)
- 16 Beset with bad luck (6)
- 18 Talkative person (8)
- 20 Very quietly (10)
- 23 Raiser (anag.) (6)
- 24 Hypocritical (3-5)
- 25 Constellation near Draco (4)
- 26 Nap (5,5)

### DOWN

- 2 Undersized pig (4)
- 3 Zilch (4)
- 4 Distasteful lodgings (4-3)
- 5 Gathered corn left by reaper (7)
- 6 Per (7)
- 7 Request (10)
- 8 Details (3,3,4)
- 12 Clearness of the atmosphere (10)
- 13 Egyptian port (10)
- 17 Female side (7)
- 18 Bristle (anag.) (7)
- 19 Study of the earth (7)
- 21 West African country (4)
- 22 Writing-table (4)

# LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No119

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



## CRYPTIC SOLUTION No119

ACROSS: 1 Jaunting-car 9 Stanza 10 Ailment 12 Reroute 14 Dowager 15 Six thousand 16 Two 17 Mod 19 Rallying-cry 22 Twelfth 23 Necktie 24 Venison 25 Bleach 26 Fleet Street. DOWN: 2 Anthrax 3 Nonsuch 4 Ida 5 Grand Canyon 6 Allowed 7 Weight 8 Stereotyped 11 Presumptive 13 Equal chance 18 Duenna 19 Refusal 20 Nuclear 21 Cuticle 25 Bus.

## QUICK SOLUTION No120

ACROSS: 1 Prizefight 7 Ibis 9 Unfreeze 10 Revere 11 Banquet 14 Pillaged 15 Hatbox 16 Jimmed 18 Bigmouth 20 Zero 4 Flea-bag 5 Cleaned 6 Through 7 Lyra 26 Forty winks. DOWN: 2 Runt 3 Plimsom 23 Sierra 24 Two-faced 25 Invitation 8 Ins and outs 12 Visibility 13 Alexandria 17 Distaff 18 Blister 19 Geology 21 Mail 22 Desk.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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# Week-long birthday party ends great year at Forum

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A WEEK-long live music party will be held at The Forum this month to mark the venue's 17th birthday.

The celebrations kick off on Saturday, January 23 when Spycatcher – featuring members of punk rockers Gallows – headline.

Support comes from The Painted Smiles, made up of Sikhth and Unkle musicians, and Kent-based up-and-comers Feed the Rhino.

The Tunbridge Wells venue's anniversary offering also features indie rockers Dogs, who have toured with the likes of Paul Weller, The Enemy and Razorlight, with the London outfit set to perform on Saturday, January 30.

The line-up also features Allegro, Filthy Nights and Medway-based four-piece Needs Must, who recorded their debut video at The Command House, Chatham, at the weekend.

Monday night's entertainment comes by way of the Forum's ninth battle of the bands competition and Wednesday sees talented singer songwriter Ellie Goulding take to the stage.

Forum promoter Chris Pritchard said he was hoping to build on last year's success.

He said: "The Forum is Kent's longest running venue and we have had an incredible 2009. We are lucky to attract some of the biggest new and classic names in the popular music scene, such as White Lies, Graham Coxon, Ash and Mumford & Sons.

"We are also lucky enough to have one of the strongest selections of local music outside of London, including Tom Williams and The Boat, Klaus Says Buy The Record, Everything



Everything, Rachel's Got a Flamethrower and Joeysfat.

"Hopefully we can improve on what has been a tremendous year for The Forum."

For details visit [www.twforum.co.uk](http://www.twforum.co.uk)

**Saturday, January 23: Spycatcher, The Painted Smiles. Feed the Rhino**

**Monday, January 25: Battle of the Bands, The Antics, Black Hawks, The Separation**

**Wednesday, January 27: Ellie Goulding, Klaus Says  
Buy The Record, The Help Movement**

**Thursday, January 28: Secret Guests, Son of Kirk, Tom Williams**


**Friday, January 29: Heartbreak DJ set (Ali Renault),  
Doop Djs**

### Saturday, January 30: Dogs, Allegro, Needs Must, Filthy Nights

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Headline acts Spycatcher, above, and and London-based indie-rockers Dogs will be at the Forum



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 3dbs Down perform live in Gillingham. Tortilla Army feature on KOS Media's in-house music show The Ether

## TOP FIVE KENT CHART

- 1 The Flack - Forget Me (from Deal)
- 2 Gristlefridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 3 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 Ron Bowdery - This Is It Kelpie (from New Eltham)
- 5 The Phalanxes - The Cure (from Herne Bay)

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Medieval Banquet night  
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Slump increases choice for first-time buyers

FIRST-time buyers are reaping the benefit of the British property slump.

Properties in almost 40 per cent of areas of the UK are now within their price range, a study claimed.

The average first-time buyer property could now be bought by someone on average earnings in 39 per cent of local authority districts, according to the Halifax bank.

The situation is a marked improvement on 2007, when homes in only six per cent of areas could be bought by someone on average earnings.

Potential first-time buyers on average pay would need to have spent about 27 per cent of their disposable income on mortgage payments in November 2009, compared to the 50 per cent they would have had to spend in June 2007.

The improvement in affordability has come through a combination of lower interest rates and house price falls.

But many first-time buyers have been unable to take advantage of the situation, due to tighter lending criteria.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show the average person buying their first home with a mortgage put down a deposit of 25 per cent of their property's value for most of 2009.

The average price of a property bought by a first-time buyer was £133,794 in 2009, 10 per cent less than in 2008.

### Rents likely to rise as new instructions fall

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) expects to see rent rises in the coming months.

In its residential lettings survey covering the third quarter of 2009, surveyors reported that the number of rental properties coming on to the market fell, for the first time since January 2008.

Optimism over rents has therefore increased for the first time since July 2008, with only 4 per cent of surveyors still reporting falling, rather than rising, rents.

In addition, 22 per cent of respondents expected rents to rise rather than fall in the next three months, as a net balance of 11 per cent of surveyors saw new instructions falling, rather than rising.

The report states: "This is in stark contrast to levels seen late last year when the housing market was still suffering from falling prices and many would-be sellers were turning to the lettings market when their houses failed to sell."



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# Estate agents see mixed fortunes for coming year

■ BY NICK AMES

EXPERTS have been looking into their crystal balls to predict the property market's future over the next 12 months, with varying results.

While Hamptons International and Chesterton Humberts expect prices to rise by 3 to 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively during the course of this year, their fellow estate agent Savills predicts falls of 6.6 per cent.

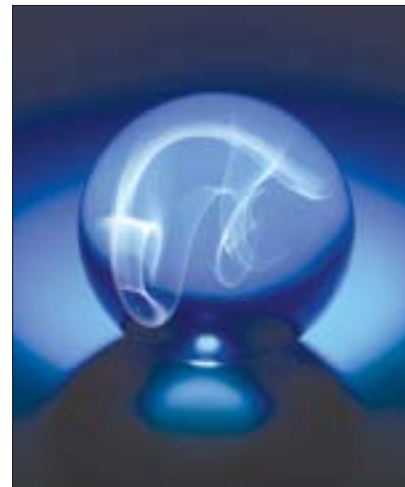
This time last year, the doom and gloom surrounding the property market were unremitting from all quarters, with even estate agents – usually accused of talking up the market – predicting a continuing slide.

However, according to most market analysts, they were proved wrong in many ways.

In most cases, first-time buyers remained shut out of the market by the banks for most of 2009, tumbling mortgage rates meant property ownership became much more affordable for those who already owned – helping keep repossessions below the high levels predicted.

Equally significant was the shortage of property.

Holding out for higher prices, homeowners



have been reluctant to put their houses up for sale, leaving buyers to fight amongst themselves. The inevitable result has been a rising market, where overseas purchasers, lured by the weak pound, have added to the competition.

The Bank of England is an important factor.

Most commentators expect the Bank rate to remain at its record low of 0.5 per cent for a good few months. The next movement must be upwards, even though it could be some years before it returns to the high of 5.75 per cent reached at the peak of the market in the second half of 2007.

Predicting the balance of supply and demand remains more difficult.

Also crucial is what will happen to demand, which could be set back by rising unemployment, the continuing squeeze on incomes and an end to the stamp duty holiday on homes priced from £125,000 to £175,000.

Hometrack, the property data company, reported a 2.2 per cent drop in new-buyer registrations last month – the first such fall since January 2009.

"Rich households could continue to put upward pressure on prices in localised markets in 2010," said Richard Donnell, its director of research.

"However, a sustainable recovery in the housing market needs a broader base of buyers."

Uncertainty ahead of this spring's general election could add to caution.

Whatever the overall figure, there seems little doubt that Kent, London and the rest of the south east will continue to outperform the rest of the country this year, and into 2011 as well.

# Protect your home as mercury falls

THE winter months are now upon us and website Confused.com is offering homeowners advice on how homes can be kept warm while temperatures outside are frosty.

Freezing conditions can burst pipes, along with heavy gusts of wind which can damage buildings and roofs.

Snowfall can also spell travelling trouble for those needing to get from A to B. All elements can result in problems for people who are caught unaware of a frosty mother nature.

Darren Black, head of home insurance at Confused.com said: "Winter is the time when all homeowners want to have nice cosy homes for some respite from the cold."

"In order to create this warm, safe haven, essential checks need to be carried out. Prevention is certainly better than cure when it comes to an emergency in the home, so people need to clear out guttering, lag pipes and wrap up any outside taps."

Advice from Confused.com which will help minimise home disasters includes:

- Clear the guttering and drain pipes of any leaves and debris. This will reduce the risk of blockages occurring.
- Cut back trees and large hedges which could cause damage if they are blown down.



- Wrap up outside taps with material which will act as a jacket from the cold.
- Chimneys should be swept regularly.
- Make sure that your loft is insulated, preventing valuable heat from escaping
- If you are leaving the home for a while, do not switch the heating off. If you turn thermostats down in a frost, pipes will burst resulting in water damage

- Make sure your boiler is serviced on a regular basis. As winter puts strains on them, checks need to be done to ensure they can cope under the additional heating pressure.
- When the heating is switched on, carbon monoxide detectors are a good idea. These will alert you to any dangerous levels of the chemical within the home. In order to avoid such a leak, regular boiler checks are essential.

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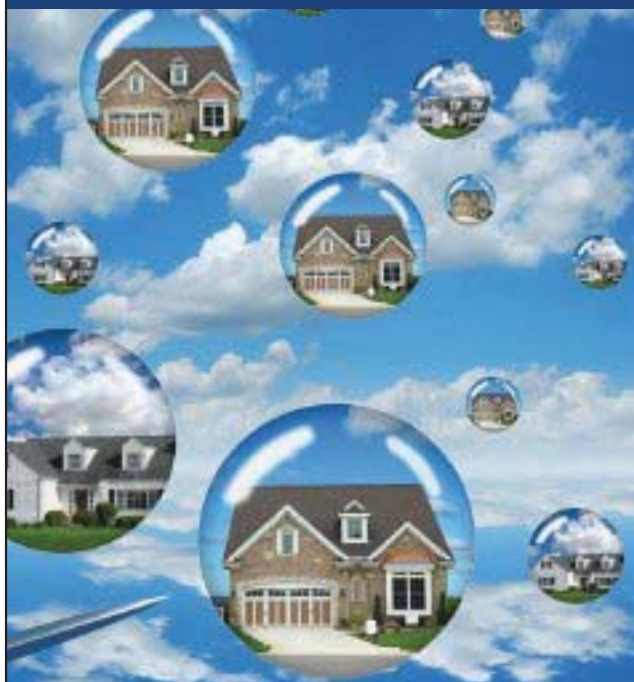
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## Strood



**£165,000**

Four bed extended semi-detached home that boasts d.g., central heating, fitted kitchen, ORP chain free.

## Strood



**OIEO £165,000**

Two double bedroom terrace house, lounge/diner onto Conservatory, double glazing & parking.

## Cliffe Woods



**OIRO £184,995**

Viewing is a must of this three bedroom semi detached. Benefitting from d.g., central heating, driveway and garage.

## Hoo



**Asking Price £249,995**

Four bed detached bungalow. Garden. ORP for several cars. Potential to extend. Planning permission granted.

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**£329,950**

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## Strood



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**Rochester: 01634 830925**

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Cult of 500 helps sales reach a five-year high

FIAT has shown the strength of its recovery in the UK by posting its best sales in five years, despite the recession.

The Italian brand, buoyed by more than 24,000 sales of its Fiat 500 retro cult car, registered 60,337 cars here last year, compared with 55,325 in 2008.

It also reported healthy sales for its Alfa Romeo and newly re-launched Abarth sporting brands and impressive rises in secondhand valuations: those for the Grande Punto supermini and Panda city car both rose around a quarter.



### Mazda targets private sector to keep growth

KENT-based Mazda UK finished 2009 as the only major car marque to record eight consecutive years of market growth – its 2.4 per cent share topped its 2008 record.

The 48,000 sales were also ahead of those forecast, helped by 17,000 sales of the Mazda2 supermini – the most successful Mazda line ever in this country.

Mazda UK MD Jeremy Thomson said such a record in tough times was a tribute to its dealers and a strategy of concentrating on private sales.



### Aveo joins Chevy style brigade with new look

CHEVROLET, having just opened order books for the aptly named Spark city car, has shown how it will apply similarly sharp styling to the next generation Aveo supermini.

This is the sporty teaser unveiled at the Detroit motor show; it is longer, wider and more spacious than the current production Aveo – due for the chop in 2011. Chevrolet Europe chief Wayne Brannon said: "The new Aveo will be completely in tune with the striking new Cruze and Spark."



**TOP MARQUE:** Volkswagen's new Polo recently scooped the European Car of the Year for 2010, beating off stiff competition from Toyota's innovative IQ and the Vauxhall Astra

# Polo has perfect timing to match current mood

VOLKSWAGEN'S smart new Polo brought the European Car of the Year to the German marque for first time since the Golf Mk III's 1992 COTY win.

It also pipped strong challenges for the 2010 gong from the innovative Toyota IQ city car and powerful new Vauxhall Astra.

This fifth generation car – I'm discounting some dodgy facelifts sometimes touted as 'new' models – is classier, lighter and roomier to match the modern supermini trend; you can happily downsize and economise with this after giving up something larger.

Styling echoes the latest Golf and VW's reborn Scirocco and yet it rightly lacks the visual verve of the latest Ford Fiesta.

For it may be a small car – though looking about the same size as the original Golf – but the Polo has always been something of a premium buy and ought to be more reserved.

A seemingly rock solid interior is well-arranged and uses high quality soft touch plastics and well designed seats. Easy fold-flat rear seats allow for extra large cargoes and

## ROAD TEST VW POLO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

there is ample stowage around the car.

Any lingering qualms about chopping an older and bigger motor for this three or five-door baby are then finally banished by a tidy drive, plus a ride quality and refinement that really would not disgrace a car two sizes bigger.

Some of this is undone by the buzzy little 70PS (69bhp) three-cylinder petrol unit in our Polo 1.2-litre SE five-door test car (£11,995), but I don't dislike this engine; steady cruising is no problem and the crisp gearshift and sure-footed handling make it entertaining on quieter roads. And despite VW championing of the diesel cause generally, 83 per cent of new Polo sales are expected to be petrol.

Even with a five-speed gearbox, the test car can average around 50mpg and is a relatively low emitter (128g/km CO<sub>2</sub>), though still incurring annual road tax of £120 against the £35 of its current 1.6-litre diesel equivalents and tax exemption for the forthcoming BlueMotion eco model.

The diesel can also average around 65mpg, but the petrol versus diesel choice is much harder than before, especially when you can get into a petrol Polo for as little as £9,435 – diesel entry price is an astonishing £12,605.



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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£7995
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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR TURQUOISE 10000 MILES.....	£7995
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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES.....	£8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANACOTTA 17000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES.....	£6995
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06 56	GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO 5DR BLUE 7 SEATS 8000 MILES.....	£8995
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## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### 4x4 ON THE CHEAP

SOARING fuel and tax costs, plus the economic downturn, have clobbered second-hand values for big thirsty 4x4s, but the redefined market has firmed up prices on smaller 'rough and tough' drives. Fact is some people who bought 4x4s originally, have become used to the extra grip and higher driving position even if they don't tend to seek out serious off-roading. So, forced to sell their bigger 4x4s, many may be looking to downsize to budget all-wheel-drive alternatives although these are not without their drawbacks - including less space.

#### FIAT PANDA 4x4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s, the Fiat's 1.2-litre petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

##### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

##### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### DAIHATSU TERIOS



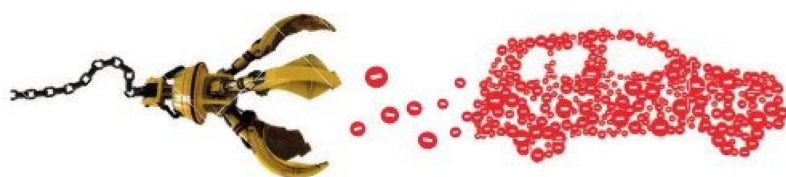
THIS is really a tale of two cars. The original Terios was reasonably capable off-road, but on-road refinement was poor even if the car's reliability has proved to be bulletproof and it makes a good used buy. The new version, launched in 2006, has far better ability in both departments, but is probably still too young to be found in numbers on the used market. Power is exclusively petrol in both cases, but they are reasonably economical and low emission.

##### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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		Government incentive	£1,000
		Offer price	£5,995

At Fiat we have a saying, "Less is Genius". It means we believe in giving people the chance to buy great looking, economical and more ecologically friendly cars at affordable prices. With the Government scrappage scheme and Fiat's eco-plus Bonus the Fiat Panda 1.1 Active Eco is just £4,995 and the Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 Active 3 door is just £6,995. So scrap all other plans and proceed immediately to your local Fiat dealer.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Fiat Panda 1.1 Active Eco, Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 68.4 (4.1), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 119g/km; Grande Punto 1.4 Active, Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.9 (5.9), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 139g/km.

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## WOMEN seeking men

**MAKE IT LAST** Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 **1**

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft 2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft 1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

**LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved body, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **1**

**BRING ME SUNSHINE** Outgoing, fun female 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share the good times with. Box 882511 **1**

**WILLING TO BE THE ONE** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time earer, looking for reliable, loving male, Canterbury. Box 464326 **1**

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vgsch, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 **1**

**IS ANYONE OUT THERE?** 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879351 **1**

**FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **1**

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, tall with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello! I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 38yr old, blonde, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

**WHAT YOU SEE...** Young looking 36 year old, 5ft4, brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307 **1**

**STARRY NIGHTS** Hello! I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878379 **1**

**I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR** Honest, caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest, have four children, enjoys drives, horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 **1**

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking man for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

## SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897963 **1**

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Petite, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **1**

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 **1**

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**ADDING PHOTOS!** Email: Send your photo and Member Number to: Louise@gwave.co.uk

Mobile: Register your number with & send by SMS to 0786 203 777. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - network charges apply.

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **1**

**AN AFRICAN DIAMOND** 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 **1**

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTW a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **1**

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 35yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

**CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU** Professional female, 41, 5ft, brown hair/eyes, likes country pubs and walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham. Box 462538 **1**

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **1**

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND** Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blonde eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517 **1**

**NO REGRETS** Bubbly, separated female, single mum, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 **1**

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**YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT** Fun-loving lady, 42, 5ft, brown hair, green eyes, enjoy being outdoors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a nice bottle of wine, WLTW you! Box 865096 **1**

**TALL ORDER** Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 **1**

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey/blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 **1**

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?** Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 **1**

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 **1**

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **1**

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS** Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 **1**

**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY** Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **1**

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **1**

**A REAL DIAMOND** African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 **1**

**MY PRINCE?** Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **1**

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, comedy. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build, WLTW genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **1**

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTW male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

**LIKE MINDS** Single female, 49, enjoy a varied social life going out, tennis, bowling, out for meals, cinema, travelling, looking to meet someone with similar interests. Eastbourne. Box 866286 **1**

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380 **1**

**STIMULATING COMPANY** Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTW nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 **1**

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **1**

**ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING?** Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 **1**

**JUST IMAGINE** Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

**THE RIGHT FIT** Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862886 **1**

**HIT THE JACKPOT** Good-looking female, 40, blonde, slim, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

**HERE AND NOW** Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 **1**

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

**MAKE A DATE** Petite female, 52, blonde, blue eyes, seeks 46-61 year old single male for it. Interests include walking, photography and more. Brighton. Box 866322 **1**

**LAUGHS AND TEARS** Bubbly blonde woman, 52, 5ft5, blue eyes. I'm a single mum, living and caring with the right man, likes socialising, cinema, walks. Sheerness. Box 464458 **1**

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Can George call again with contact details? Box 417100 **1**

**IN THE COUNTRY** Young looking 72yr old female, slim, with blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to share my social life with like minded gent, likes country pubs. Box 457491 **1**

**Women seeking women**

**LET'S FIND OUT!** Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5ft5, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446 **1**

**HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?** Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 **1**

**TABLE FOR 27** Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5ft5, tall & peppa hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737 **1**

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**COMPANIONSHIP LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE** Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

**PERFECT MATCH** Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462273 **1**

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

**MAKE A NEW FRIEND** Fun-loving lady, 58, 5ft4, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **1**

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **1**

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build, medium build, looking for slim build, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **1**

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 **1**

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, WLTW tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **1**

**ONLY LOVE** Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 863791 **1**

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, loves dancing, walking by the sea and WLTW like minded gent. Box 459467 **1**

**LOOKING FOR PRINCE CHARMING** Pretty, bubbly girl in her 60's love romantic meals, gardens and the arts looking for caring gentlemen. East Sussex. Box 458169 **1**

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082 **1**

**LET'S FALL IN LOVE** Lovely female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763 **1**

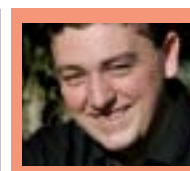
**SEEKING MY MATCH** Single lady, 39, 6ft dark hair, nice looking, loyal, honest, separated, looking for a loving, honest, fun-loving lady. Eastbourne. Box 458980 **1**

**LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!** Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 459317 **1**

**FULLY HOUSE TRAINED!** Happy-go-lucky divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6ft, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking, WLTW female, prefer single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 **1**

**JUST THE TWO OF US** Male, 42, 5'10", tall medium/large muscular fit build, likes dating, bodybuilding, looking for female 30 to 45 for good times. Rochester. Box 862748 **1**

**HOW ABOUT TODAY?** Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5ft8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 **1**



## MEN seeking women

**GUSS WHO?** Male, 30, 5'10", in Ashford and looking for the right lady, 30-40, enjoys all the usual things in life: socialising, nights in/out, mountain biking. Box 866418 **1**

**HAPPY CHAPPY** Hi I'm a happy-go-lucky man, 33, a plumber, enjoys life and everything in it. I'm fit and active, and seeking the same in a woman. Box 452394 **1**

**WHAT YOU SEE ID WHAT YOU GET** Single dad, 34, 5ft7, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464419 **1**

**INTERESTED?** Easygoing, genuine male, 36, 5ft8, dark hair, medium build/cuddly, likes cinema, pubs, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876 **1**

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **1**

**AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER** Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805 **1**

**INTERESTED?** Shy at first, I'm male, 37, and enjoy gardening, walks, seeking a woman, looks unimportant, 37-56 for loving relationship. Box 463897 **1**

**INTERESTED?** Genuine male, 39, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'8", medium build, likes cooking, dining out, quiet holidays, seeking a lovely lady for good company. Ramsgate. Box 463493 **1**

**MAKE ME LAUGH** Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464286 **1**

**LOVE TO LAUGH** Looking for a dove to earth green eyed lady, must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208 **1**

**TO EACH THEIR OWN** Romantic male, 40, 6ft, slim build, gosh, 32 waist, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pool, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 35-45, gosh, romantic. Sheerness. Box 463935 **1**

**LIFE IS FOR LIVING** Divorced male, 40, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, likes live music, looking for a fun woman to enjoy life with, to go out for fun. Eastbourne. Box 462094 **1**

**SIDE BY SIDE** Loving male, 39, loves dogs, blonde hair looking for a partner to help walk them and get some fresh air, enjoy dining out in. Box 459317 **1**

**SEEKING MY MATCH** Single lady, 39, 6ft dark hair, nice looking, loyal, honest, separated, looking for a loving, honest, fun-loving lady. Eastbourne. Box 458980 **1**

**LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!** Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 459317 **1**

**FULLY HOUSE TRAINED!** Happy-go-lucky divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6ft, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking, WLTW female, prefer single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 **1**

**JUST THE TWO OF US** Male, 42, 5'10", tall medium/large muscular fit build, likes dating, bodybuilding, looking for female 30 to 45 for good times. Rochester. Box 862748 **1**

**HOW ABOUT TODAY?** Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5ft8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 **1**

**BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093**

(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

**HELP required with service?**

**0871 220 9205**

(Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: [louise@gwave.co.uk](mailto:louise@gwave.co.uk) | Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

**PAINT THE TOWN** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft8, caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 37-58 for a loving relationship. Ashford. Box 464218 **1**

**MAKE A CONNECTION** Easygoing male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 44, loving, likes cooking, holidays, music, countryside, cinema, seeking a lady 37-58 for a loving relationship. Ashford. Box 464218 **1**



**BE THERE NOW** Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things, WLTW female to settle down with and find love. Box 443410 **1**

**ROMANTIC TYPE** Loyal gent, 45, caring, romantic with a GSOH, looking for similar female, 25-45, slim/medium. I'm 5ft11, slim/medium build, brown hair/blue eyes. Single mums welcome. Hastings. Box 451334 **1**

**GOOD COOK** Single



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**Head of Faculty (£46K)** negotiable subject to experience.

**Teacher Coach (£33K)** negotiable subject to experience.

MidKent College is a large, successful FE College operating on two main campuses in Medway and Maidstone. Our state of the art, £86 million Medway campus is next door to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College is training all their soldiers in Construction & Engineering under a 30-year contract.

Our recent OFSTED Inspection described the College as 'good' overall with 'outstanding' capacity to improve. We would like to accelerate our improvement agenda by seconding individuals who will relish the chance to undertake a specific improvement project within the College in areas such as A levels, Skills for Life, Construction, Engineering, Teaching and Learning. Whether you are already in FE, working in a school or Sixth Form College, or working elsewhere in education, this is an ideal opportunity to develop your skills in a supportive environment working alongside some high quality senior leaders.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

The roles above are the indicative levels that we seek secondments at. There is, however, some scope for flexibility for high calibre individuals who can help us on our journey to be "outstanding"!

If you are interested in knowing more please contact our retained consultant Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 or by email [ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk)



MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

### TECHNICIAN REQUIRED (FULLY SKILLED) Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone is looking for a fully skilled technician preferably with Chrysler Jeep or Hyundai experience.

Salary is negotiable with on target bonus offered together with 22 days holiday per annum.

To apply or for more information call Dennis Crighton on 01622 686864 or send your CV to Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX.

To advertise in  
this section

 **01303 817040**

### PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

**Conversant with duties of  
Company Secretary**

Part-time bookkeeper required for family business and Charitable Foundation. We have an extensive property portfolio in South East England and France, and the Foundation also runs a large community Art Centre in Chatham.

The successful applicant will be a confident, self-motivated and experienced person able to produce forecasts as required, quarterly financial reports, draft year end accounts to enable Accountants to prepare year end Tax Returns, Annual Returns for Companies House and the Charity Commission, payroll, profit and loss, etc. A good working knowledge of Sage accounts software essential. Car driver preferred as you will be required to work in two offices. 24 hours pw over 4 days. Able to commence work February 2010.

Tel: 01634 819618 Fax: 01634 827405 or  
e.mail [carol@halpernpropertiesltd.com](mailto:carol@halpernpropertiesltd.com)



**NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

We are a highly successful and ambitious school. As part of the Building Schools for the Future and transforming learning initiative our school has undergone dramatic change. Our staff needs reflect that and to ensure that our students receive the best support we are currently seeking to employ:

### EXAMINATIONS SECRETARY

£7,498 to £8,425 p.a. 20 hours per week

Term time plus support for examination results

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

The post holder will support the smooth running of all aspects of all in school examinations and the accurate recording of pupil attainment for statutory and in-school assessments. Must be computer literate with a good knowledge of SIMS and Microsoft packages and an ability to communicate and co-operate effectively at all levels, with tact and diplomacy.

### ACADEMIC COACH in MATHEMATICS

£13,872 to £15,586 p.a. 37 hours per week

Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.15 a.m. start

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

To work with the more able individuals and groups of students to motivate and ensure adequate challenge, in order that students meet their targets and that any barriers to learning are overcome. You will work as part of a domain focused curriculum team, and be educated to at least A Level standard in mathematics.

### LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

£11,391 to £11,968 p.a. 31.25 hours per week

Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £15,984 to £16,793

Learning Support Assistant to work with students who have identified social and emotional behavioural needs. The ideal candidate will have experience of working with adolescents or within a school, possibly with ASD or similar diagnosis, and be able to provide evidence of good levels of literacy and numeracy.

All positions require a flexible approach to working, the ability to work as part of a team as well as under your own initiative and good communication skills at all levels are essential. Appointment will be subject to full enhanced CRB check.

Full job descriptions available on request. To apply please submit a full C.V. to Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ Tel: 0844 477 2525 or e.mail [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing date for applications : 31 January 2010



## Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

**We are currently looking for a  
Teacher for pupils with  
severe and profound learning  
difficulties to commence  
Easter 2010**

**MPS + 2 SEN Points +**

**TLR 2C £2478 (with previous experience)**

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

**Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**Closing Date: 15th January 2010**

**For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.**

## Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

**We are currently looking for...**

**TEACHING  
ASSISTANTS**  
to join and enhance our large and  
expanding, high calibre team

**Medway Scale, Grade D2  
£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata  
+ SEN Allowance (£1,177)**

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

**Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.**

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

**For an application pack,  
please write to/telephone  
(stating the role for which you are applying):**

**Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School,  
Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP  
(01634 338236)**

**Please note CV's will not be accepted  
Closing date: 15.1.10**

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## Medway COUNCIL Serving You

### All Saints

*A Sure Start Children's Centre*

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham ME4 5AZ

**Nursery Officer** Ref: CA0925L  
Grade D1 Salary: £12,787 - £16,440 per annum  
Hours: 37 hours per week, working a shift pattern

Our full daycare nursery is looking for another member of staff to join its busy team, working with babies and children under the age of three years. If you have an early years qualification, (minimum level 2), post qualifying experience and a passion for providing the highest quality care and education for young children then we would like to hear from you.

**Café Worker** Ref: CA0926L  
(maternity cover for approximately 6-9 months)  
Grade D1 Salary: £12,787 - £16,440 per annum  
Hours: 37 hours per week

As café worker you will be involved with the day-to-day running of the café including preparing and cooking food, menu planning and preparing meals for children in our full daycare nursery as well as assisting in making the community café a focus for our community. You will be enthusiastic, passionate about food and nutrition, confident, innovative and customer focused with experience of a fast moving catering environment.

Any offer of employment for these posts will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact the centre on 01634 338833.

Closing date for both posts: Friday, 29 January 2010

For an application pack or to apply visit [www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk)  
or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or 01634 332843  
24-hour answerphone. Alternatively email: [jobs@medway.gov.uk](mailto:jobs@medway.gov.uk) quoting the reference.

Valuing people's  
differences, recognising  
their strengths.



## Children & Family Services Co-ordinator

**Salary £19,621 - £26,276**

Closing date: 18 January 2010

**Would you like to be part of our brand new  
Children's Centre?**

To apply/more information:  
Delce Infant School, Rochester  
Email: [office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01634 844127

## Valence School

### KEYWORKER

**FULL TIME – Working Term Time Only**

This post involves shift work and to have responsibility for and work to promote all aspects of personal development and individual progress for a group of Key Students.  
Kent Scheme Band 5  
**£16,793 to £18,471 full time equivalent**

### STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

**Full Time and Part Time hours available, Term Time Only.**

This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs throughout their waking day, both within and outside the classroom.  
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)  
**£14,099 to £15,984 full time equivalent**

### WAKING NIGHT STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

**Shifts are 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Term Time Only.**

This post involves working waking nights, and supporting students with their personal care needs over the night. There are a number of nights available.  
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)  
**£14,099 - £15,984 full time equivalent plus unsocial hours allowance**

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

*Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.*

For further information and an application form, please contact Staff Services Department. Please note the closing date for applications is Friday 22nd January 2010 at 4pm.

Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN  
Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046  
e-mail: [vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk](mailto:vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk)

### J G Burgess & Co

Upton Lane  
Sittingbourne  
ME10 1JB

#### Position - Admin Assistant

Computer literacy essential and ability to perform a range of routine procedures in a busy office environment. Telephone and communication skills required. Team player able to support other members of staff. 30 hours per week. Please enquire in writing only, enclosing CV.

### ELEVEN 50 LLP

Company No. OC333745

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 3rd Floor 38-45 Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6LA on 21/01/2010 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Bridge Business Recovery, 6 Hanover Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN11 1EY on the two business days immediately preceding the meeting between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. The resolutions at the meeting of creditors may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidators are to be remunerated. The meeting may receive information about, or be asked to approve the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. Dated 04/01/2010  
B YEOMANS, Director T278609

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE TO CLOSE ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR intends to discontinue ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT SCHOOL, 4 New Street, Chatham, ME4 6RH on 31 August 2010.

The proposal is to close St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School in August 2010 and re-locate pupils to neighbouring schools. This proposal is made in order to reduce surplus places and to ensure that the remaining provision in the area will be able to deliver efficient and effective education.

The council confirms that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to this proposal have been complied with.

All pupils attending St John's at the point of closure will be offered places at either St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Hills Terrace, Chatham, ME4 6PX or Delce Infant and Nursery School, Fleet Road, Rochester, ME1 2QA. There are also vacancies in other Medway schools and the usual arrangements for responding to parental preferences will apply.

The council believes this proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for the children with special educational needs ("SEN") currently attending St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School as neighbouring schools will thereafter receive larger overall budgets to provide educational services to those children with SEN currently at the schools and those that were formerly attending St John's. These increased budgets will enable those neighbouring schools to increase the standard and improve the quality and range of SEN provision, in the local area. The consolidation of pupils with SEN at these schools will enable resources to be used more flexibly.

Because of the close proximity of alternative places available at neighbouring schools, the council expects that the majority of pupils would still be able to walk to school. Pupils will be offered free travel if they satisfy the council's criteria for free home to school transport.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Chris McKenzie, Head of School Organisation and Student Services, Children and Adults, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR. Phone 01634 334013 or at [www.medway.gov.uk/mpsc](http://www.medway.gov.uk/mpsc). Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by writing to Simon Trotter, Assistant Director Learning and Achievement, Children and Adults, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR by 22 February 2010. Comments submitted in response to the proposal published on 19 October 2009 in relation to the closure of St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School will also be considered by the council unless the council is notified they are withdrawn.

Signed: Rose Collinson

Director of Children & Adults- learning and caring

Publication Date: 11 January 2010







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Picture: ADY KERRY



**LUCK:** Rob Key hopes to keep injuries at bay for Kent to compete

# Bowlers unit staying fit will be key for us, says Rob

## CRICKET

KEEPING players fit for the whole summer is going to be integral if Kent are going to compete in the top tier of English cricket, according to skipper Rob Key.

Kent return to Division One of the County Championship this season with a settled, but small playing squad, which means injuries to key players could have a major impact.

The club were without arguably their best fast bowler in Robbie Joseph for the majority of last season, which put extra strain on the bowling attack. He has had successful shoulder surgery and is expected to be fit for the start of the season, while the addition of Australian Stuart Clark will help bolster the attack, together with another new seamer expected to sign shortly.

Keeping his bowling attack fit and firing is essential to Key, who expects his side to be challenging for honours this summer.

"On paper our top 11 is as good as any around, but obviously Durham are the stand-out side with people like Steve Harmison in their side," he said. "If we have Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, Joseph and Clark, that's a very good attack. You need a bit of luck to keep them fit and the problem is if they aren't fit, we have a couple of young guys coming in that have potential, but they are where they are because they still have a lot to learn, so ideally you want to go in

with your full strength attack. This year we can't be naive, history's told us that we can't always do that."

The club captain has already forged a good working relationship with new head coach Paul Farbrace and the pair are looking for the younger players to step up and cement their place in the side.

Key said: "It's going to take a lot of luck as it always does but the good thing is we have a couple of young guys coming through. Sam Northeast – there is going to be a lot of opportunities for him, Alex Blake as well, so we are starting to see that we are strengthening not only by signing players, but the young players coming through."

"The bowling side of the things is the only place where we need to add to the side really."



**PARTICIPATION:** Girls football is on the rise

## Football remains popular across Kent

PARTICIPATION in football has increased across the board this season according to encouraging statistics released by the Kent County Football Association (KCFA).

Figures show there are more youth players, disabled players and referees involved in the game on a regular basis than last season. It means the sport remains the most popular in the county, with 46,000 people competing every week – an increase of more than five per cent.

Paul Dolan, KCFA development manager, outlined the body's role in promoting the grass roots game which they argue makes an important vital contribution towards building stronger communities, improving health, reducing crime and tackling obesity.

He said: "The KCFA service the needs of the football community by putting in place a new generation of modern footballing facilities, increasing and widening participation levels, raising standards within affiliated clubs and investing in the football workforce by providing quality education courses to administrators, coaches and referees."

The biggest rise was among young players. There are 175 more mini-soccer and youth football teams in Kent this season. It equates to 2,500 more players compared to last year, which is ahead of the KCFA's target to get more children involved. The increase includes 23 more youth female teams and 16 new disabled sides.

As well as the desire to attract more players to the sport, the Football Association has prioritised referees through its Respect programme. This year there are an extra 21 male and five female referees qualified to officiate at Kent matches. It takes the overall figure of registered referees in the county above 1,100.

The next priorities are to increase the number of mini-soccer and youth teams playing in FA Charter Standard Clubs and to gain two new FA Charter Standard Leagues.

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glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



# Kent express interest in offering Clark a return deal

## CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

TALKS are already underway with seam bowler Stuart Clark about coming back next year after the Australian signed as Kent's overseas player for the first half of the summer.

The county offered the 34-year-old a short-term contract before Christmas, which was exclusively revealed on our website, which he got around to signing last week after getting the go-ahead from Cricket Australia.

The Australian right-arm seam bowler, who has 94 wickets from 24 Test matches for his country, has shrugged off a back injury that has kept him out of action for New South Wales of late and will be available to play for Kent as they prepare for a return to Division One of the County Championship.

The club's head coach, Paul Farbrace, also revealed to this newspaper that discussions have already begun with Clark about a return to St Lawrence, should he impress this summer.

### Quality

"Stuart is hoping to play in the Indian Premier League in 2011 and we have had preliminary talks with him, that if things go well this summer, then there maybe some possibility of him coming back at some stage next year," he said. "He is a high quality player and a high quality bloke, and also the fact he is available from ball one of the summer because he is not playing in the IPL is a great thing for us."

While Clark, who was scheduled to join the county as their overseas player last summer before being called up to play for Australia, has put pen to paper on a deal, a spinner of international quality is the next player the club hope to tie down for the second half of the summer.

While Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on the identity of the club's overseas target, he did say that he is "something different to what we have got" and that the player is involved in a current international series.

The club are also keen to bolster their bowling ranks with two domestic seamers on Kent's radar, although Farbrace did say they would only sign one of them.

"We have an overseas player in place for the second half, what we are still waiting on is a seamer option," he said. "We are still looking at bringing in one more seamer if we possibly can and we are still talking to the same two people we were before Christmas."

With regulations stating that counties can name two overseas players in this summer's revamped Friends Provident Twenty20, Kent are contemplating the idea of extending Clark's deal to include the competition. That would mean he teams up with the 'mystery' new spinner for the second half of the season, although that is still yet to be decided.

• **James Tredwell** has been included in a strong England Lions squad for next month's tour of the United Arab Emirates. The spinner, who is on duty with England in South Africa, will be involved in the first half of the trip. After four Twenty20 games against the UAE and Pakistan A, he will transfer to the England squad for the tour of Bangladesh.



**ACTION:** Paul Farbrace revealed talks have begun with Stuart Clark (above) about a return to St Lawrence



# Gills trip to Swindon set to fall by wayside

## FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM could see a fourth successive game called off due to the freezing weather, with doubts over their trip to Swindon this weekend.

Only two games survived the icy conditions in League One on Saturday and with temperatures not forecast to increase significantly the fixture list could be hard hit again.

Officials at Swindon are doubtful about whether their clash with the Gills can go ahead. Pitches can be damaged if covers are left on for more than a few days, so the County Ground was left exposed last weekend. The Robins were hoping to clear the snow from the pitch this week, but it may be a fruitless exercise if temperatures cannot rise sufficiently to thaw the ground.

If it is postponed it would be the Gills' fourth game in a row called off. Last weekend's home game against Tranmere was one of the first in the country to be postponed, while the FA Cup tie at Accrington Stanley has twice failed to go ahead.

The Gills squad have had their day-to-day sessions disrupted and were only able to train outdoors once last week due to conditions at their Beechings Cross training ground. Manager Mark Stimson is frustrated with the



Picture ADY KERRY

**FRUSTRATION:** With wintry conditions set to continue, Gills manager Mark Stimson is looking at another postponement

situation, but pointed out they were not alone.

He said: "We want to be out there training and working, but we can't unfortunately change the weather and I think there'll be a lot of clubs in the same position."

"We wanted the [Tranmere] game to go ahead, we said to the people at the club 'do all you can' and the covers went down early. We don't want to get into a situation where we're playing twice a week for long periods."

The inactivity has at least given more time to chase up targets, with the January transfer window making its traditional slow start, with no movement in or out at Priestfield.

Stimson will hold talks with Febian Brandy

this week about extending his loan deal from Manchester United until the end of the season. Otherwise it has been quiet, but the Gills boss is hopeful of concluding some loan moves later this month.

He said: "Everyone you speak to is looking for a centre-half and a striker. They are the key positions in your team along with a goalkeeper – if you're good in those areas you've got a chance. They're not easy to get but we're making calls. A lot of people are saying they might be able to release people later in the month."

Log on to [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) for the latest news on whether the Swindon game goes ahead.

## ICE HOCKEY



Picture DAVID TRELLON

**AWAY DAYS:** The Mos face a succession of road trips

## Dynamos face tough run of away fixtures

AFTER seeing their lead cut at the weekend Invicta Dynamos are preparing for a tough run of games which are expected to test their title credentials.

Concerns over travelling to Oxford saw the Mos' request for their game against the Stars called off on Sunday. It allowed second-placed Cardiff Dragons to take advantage as they won at Wightlink Raiders to move within five points of the league leaders.

With the Oxford game likely to be rearranged for the vacant first weekend in February, the Mos will be away for six of their next eight league games. It includes two trips to Oxford and another to Bracknell, one of only two teams to beat the Mos this season.

Head coach Kevin Parrish is preparing for a difficult run.

He said: "Cardiff winning keeps everyone on their toes and we know if we slip up they'll be right behind us. We've got some tough games coming up, as much as the fixtures were nice to us at the start now every weekend will be hard. Hopefully we can come through it and take the title, but there's a long way to go yet."

The break did give Karl Lennon and Peter Vaisanen the chance to recover from shoulder injuries picked up in the previous game against Chelmsford. Lennon has a history of dislocations and fortunately the Mos' physio was able to get it back in without causing any damage. The skipper would have definitely been ruled out of the trip to Oxford but could now feature against Peterborough on Sunday.

Vaisanen appeared to have also suffered a dislocation, but is believed to have escaped with heavy bruising. He may have been risked last weekend but given another week to recover will be available for the trip to Peterborough.

## LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

### COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Leeds United	24	17	6	1	+32	57
2 Norwich City	25	15	6	4	+26	51
3 Charlton Athletic	24	13	9	2	+19	48
4 Colchester United	23	13	6	4	+18	45
5 Huddersfield Town	23	11	5	7	+18	38
6 Swindon Town	22	10	8	4	+2	38
7 Millwall	24	9	9	6	+7	36
8 Milton Keynes Dons	24	11	3	10	0	36
9 Bristol Rovers	23	11	1	11	-4	34
10 Walsall	22	8	7	7	+3	31
11 Hartlepool United	24	8	6	10	-1	30
12 Brentford	24	7	9	8	-4	30
13 Southend United	24	8	5	11	-4	29
14 Southampton (-10)	24	10	8	6	+13	28
15 Yeovil Town	24	6	10	8	-2	28
16 Carlisle United	22	7	7	8	-2	28
17 Gillingham	24	7	5	12	-5	26
18 Exeter City	25	6	8	11	-1	26
19 Oldham Athletic	23	6	7	10	-9	25
20 Brighton & Hove Albion	24	6	6	12	-13	24
21 Leyton Orient	24	6	6	12	-13	24
22 Tranmere Rovers	23	6	3	14	-22	21
23 Wycombe Wanderers	26	4	7	15	-22	19
24 Stockport County	23	3	5	15	-26	14

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	21	15	5	1	+19	50
2 Worthing	22	14	1	7	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	20	9	5	6	+7	32
8 Merstham	21	9	5	7	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	22	9	3	10	-6	30
10 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	6	+7	28
11 Burgess Hill Town	19	8	4	7	+2	28
12 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	3	10	-3	27
13 Whyteleafe	21	8	2	11	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	8	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	-14	20
20 Whitstable Town	21	5	2	14	-27	17
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	18	2	5	11	-30	11

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	15	11	2	2	+24	35
2 Heme Bay	13	9	1	3	+13	28
3 Erith & Belvedere	14	9	0	5	+4	27
4 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	+6	24
5 Beckenham Town	13	7	1	5	+9	22
6 Greenwich Borough	14	6	3	5	0	21
7 Hythe Town	11	5	4	2	+16	19
8 Tunbridge Wells	15	4	7	4	0	19
9 Erith Town	11	5	3	3	+7	18
10 Sporting Bengal	14	5	3	6	-10	18
11 Deal Town	12	4	4	4	-4	16
12 Norton Sports	12	4	1	7	-5	13
13 Holmesdale	14	4	1	9	-6	13
14 Fisher	16	3	3	10	-18	12
15 Corinthian	13	2	3	8	-15	9
16 Lordswood	11	0	3	8	-21	3

**FIXTURES (Saturday):** Coca-Cola Football League One: Swindon Town v Gillingham. Ryman Division One South: Chatham Town v Merstham. Kent Senior Trophy Quarter-Final: Greenwich Borough v Lordswood

# Chats arrange benefit game for injured Green

## FOOTBALL

PLANS are underway to hold a benefit game for Chatham Town defender Mark Green at the end of the season.

The 24-year-old broke his leg in three places playing against Folkestone Invicta last month. Now out of hospital, the full-back is starting the long rehabilitation process which he hopes will end with a return to competitive football.

Green has received many offers of help from other clubs, with nearby Dartford throwing their facilities open to aid his recovery. He is also helping to arrange a game later this year, which Chats boss Alex O'Brien believes will help ease the psychological effects of the injury.

He said: "We've said to him pick two teams you want to see play and we'll sort it out. It'll give him something to concentrate on and keep him involved with everyone. The hardest thing when you get a bad injury is after about two weeks it feels like everyone has forgotten about you and I don't want that to happen."

On the pitch Chatham have felt the force of the freezing weather, with their game at Burgess Hill postponed last weekend. They have only completed one game since December 12, which is a source of concern for O'Brien.

He said: "It's frustrating and annoying because we want to try and get some continuity, which we haven't been able to do. You can train as much as you want but nothing



Picture ADRIAN LINE

**BENEFIT:** Mark Green is helping to arrange a friendly

comes anywhere near playing competitive games."

Chatham are due to return to action this Saturday with a home game against Merstham.

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